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VIZ shōjo

Here is Greenwood™

story and art by Yukie Nasu

vol.4

Here is Greenwood™

Vol. 4

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Yukie Nasu

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Contents

Shelter from the Storm 5

Here is Devilwood 109

The Girls of Summer 175

Here is Greenwood
Vol. 4
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Story and Art by Yukie Nasu

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HERE IS GREENWOOD is rated T+ for Older Teen. This volume contains suggestive situations. Recommended for older teens. (15 and up)

SHELTER FROM THE STORM
(PART ONE)

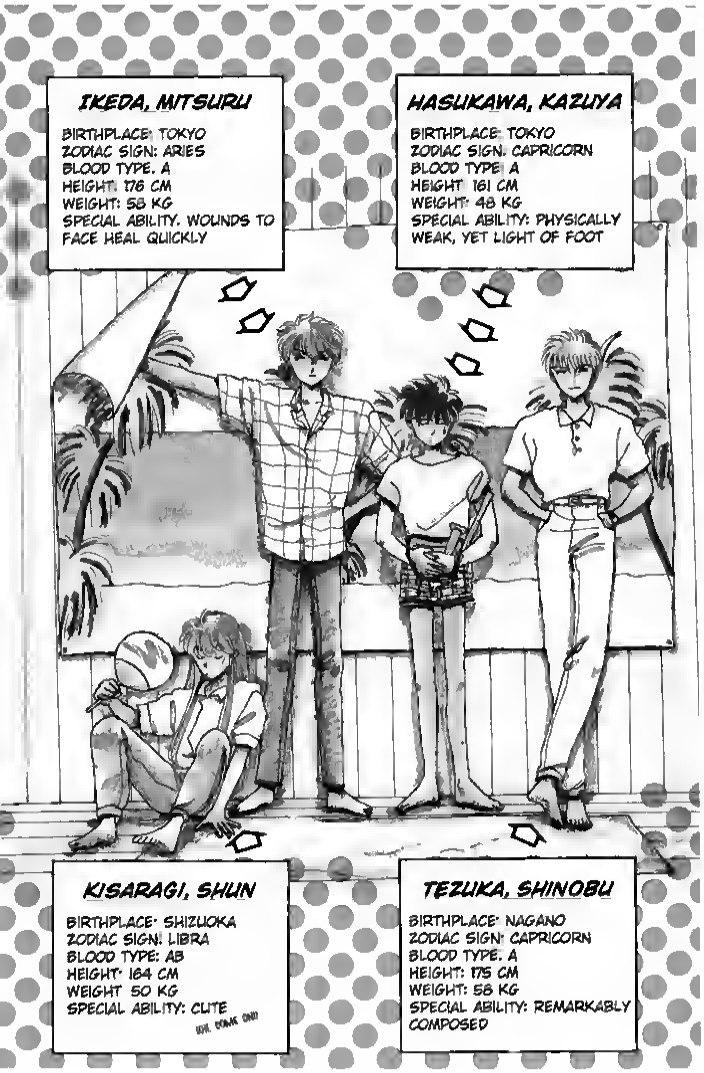
Here is Greenwood Guide to Honorifics

"Sempai"
Used to address more senior members of an organization. In a school, students in grades higher than the speaker are addressed as (their name here)-*sempai*. The honorific used to address students in lower grades is *kohai*. These honorifics are used in many other Japanese institutions, such as company offices.

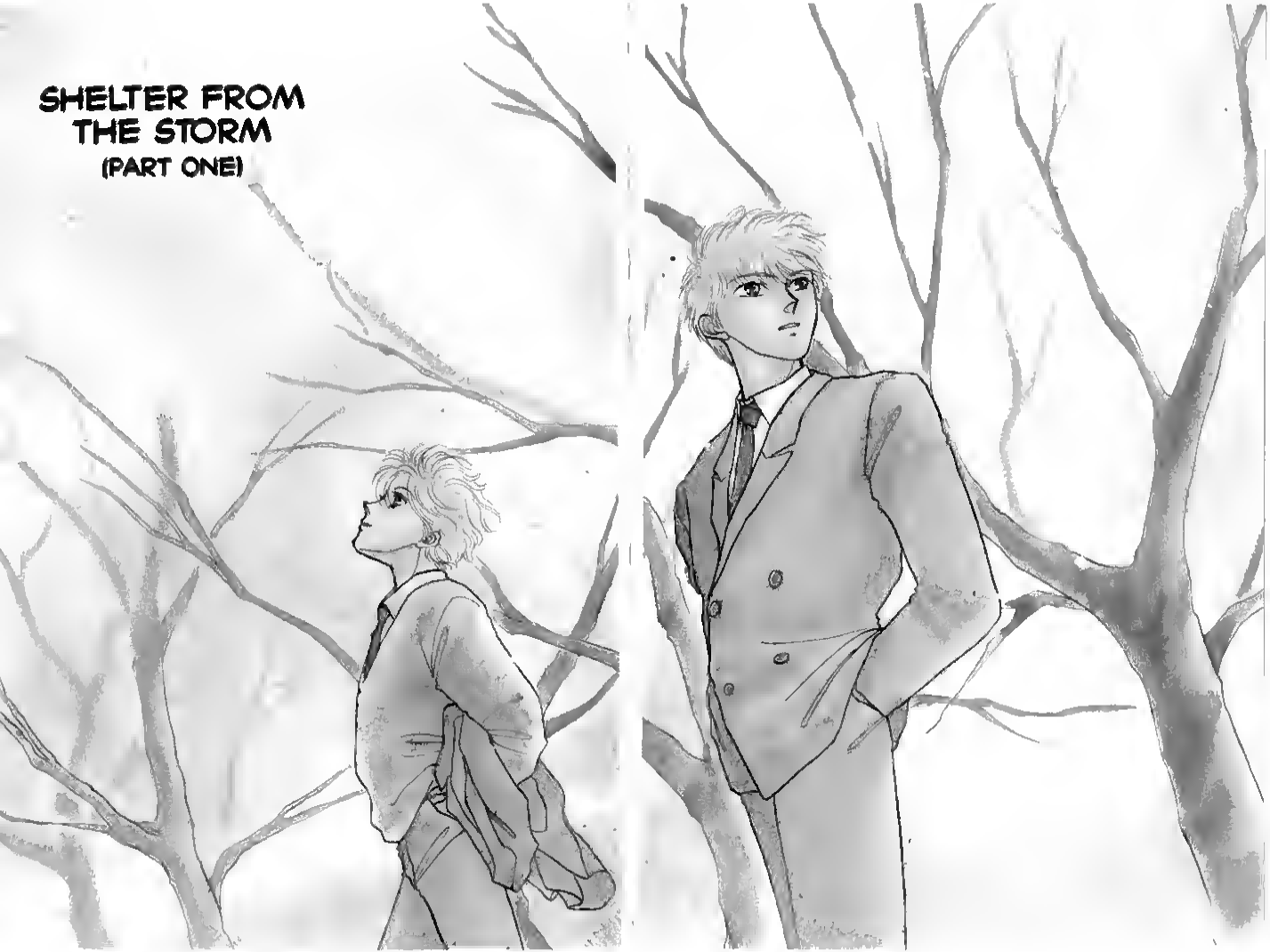
"Sempai/kohai relationship"
Since *Here is Greenwood* takes place in a school, the *sempai/kohai* relationship is a crucial aspect of the life of the students. It is much like a Western master/protégé relationship, but on a school-wide scale. *Sempai*, the senior students, are expected to look after the interests of their *kohai* and guide them, help them with their problems, give them referrals, and be their counselors. *Kohai* are expected to respect their *sempai*, do chores or menial tasks, follow orders, and learn.

Diminutives and nicknames
Like western nicknames, most Japanese nicknames are shortened versions of full names, sometimes with the honorific *-chan* or *-kun* tacked on the end. Sumire calls her husband "Hira-kun," shortened from Kazuhiro-kun; similarly, she calls her brother-in-law "Yakkun," shortened and slightly changed from Kazuya-kun. "Suka-chan" (pronounced ska-chehn) is a similar diminutive taken from Hasukawa, except that the word "suka" is also a not-so-common insult approximately equivalent to "baka" (fool).

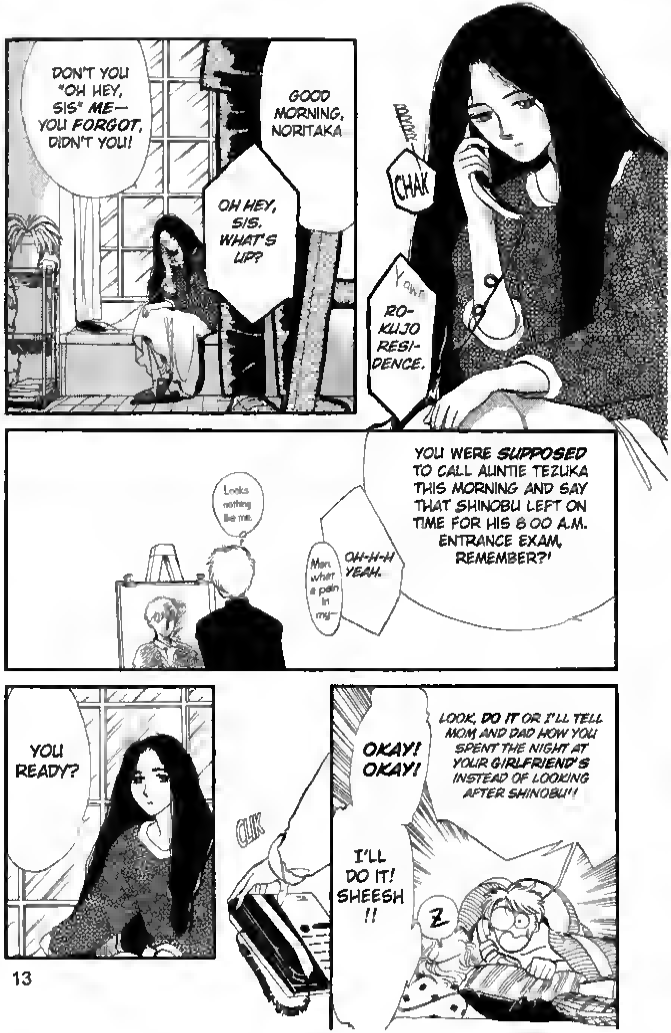
–William Flanagan

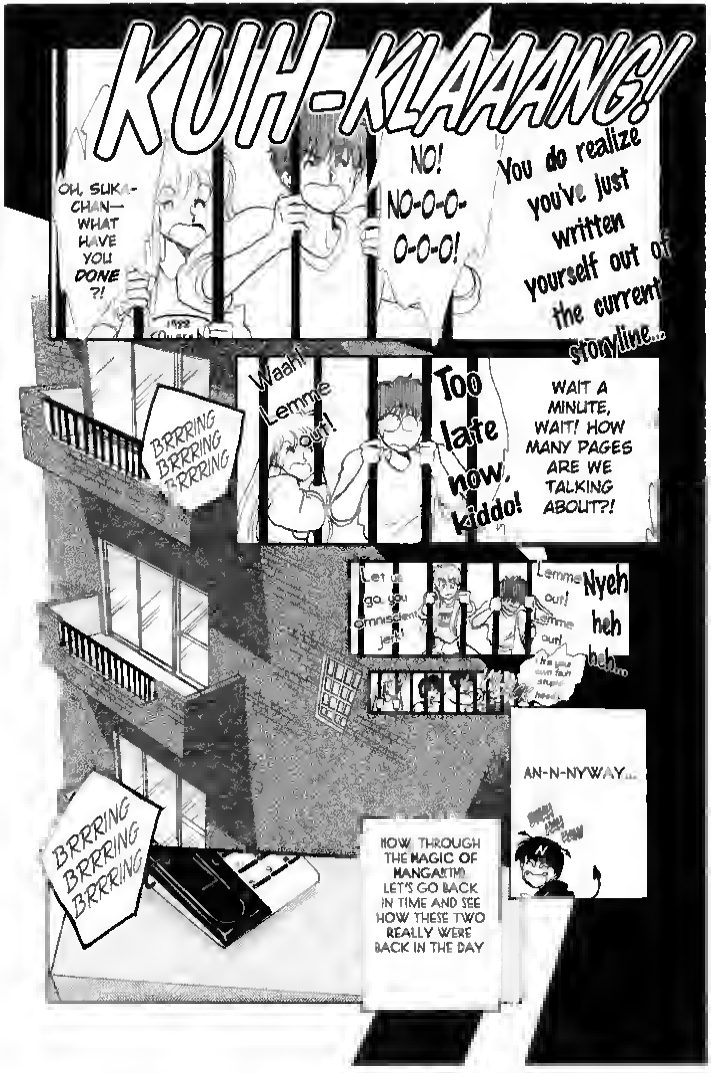

IKEDA, MITSURU
BIRTHPLACE: TOKYO
ZODIAC SIGN: ARIES
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 176 CM
WEIGHT: 58 KG
SPECIAL ABILITY: WOUNDS TO FACE HEAL QUICKLY
HASUKAWA, KAZUYA
BIRTHPLACE: TOKYO
ZODIAC SIGN: CAPRICORN
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 161 CM
WEIGHT: 48 KG
SPECIAL ABILITY: PHYSICALLY WEAK, YET LIGHT OF FOOT
KISARAGI, SHUN
BIRTHPLACE: SHIZUOKA
ZODIAC SIGN: LIBRA
BLOOD TYPE: AB
HEIGHT: 164 CM
WEIGHT: 50 KG
SPECIAL ABILITY: CUTE
TEZUKA, SHINOBU
BIRTHPLACE: NAGANO
ZODIAC SIGN: CAPRICORN
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 175 CM
WEIGHT: 58 KG
SPECIAL ABILITY: REMARKABLY COMPOSED

SHELTER FROM THE STORM
(PART ONE)



HERE? HERE IS GREEN-WOOD.
AND, IN THIS PLACE...
...LIVE BOTH UPPER- AND LOWER-CLASSMEN.
YAAARGH!
THEY ACT LIKE THEY WERE BORN UPPER-CLASSMEN!
NOT THAT I CAN TELL.
THEY TEASING YOU AGAIN?
TOO BAD NOBODY CAN SEE WHAT THEY WERE LIKE WHEN THEY WERE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS! I SURE WISH PEOPLE COULD!
STUPID JERKS! THEY DON'T GET IT, THEY'VE NO IDEA HOW FIRST-YEARS FEEL.
SUKA-CHAN..
...HUH?
You do, do you? Nyeh heh heh heh...
I SURE DO!
Do you REEEALLY wish that?


DON'T YOU "OH HEY, SIS" ME— YOU FORGOT, DIDN'T YOU!
GOOD MORNING, NORITAKA
OH HEY, SIS. WHAT'S UP?
CHAK
Y OWN RO-KUJO RESI-DENCE.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CALL AUNTIE TEZUKA THIS MORNING AND SAY THAT SHINOBU LEFT ON TIME FOR HIS 8:00 A.M. ENTRANCE EXAM, REMEMBER?!
OH-H-H YEAH.
Man, what a pain in my—
Looks nothing like me.
YOU READY?
CHK
OKAY! OKAY!
I'LL DO IT! SHEESH !!
LOOK, DO IT OR I'LL TELL MOM AND DAD HOW YOU SPENT THE NIGHT AT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S INSTEAD OF LOOKING AFTER SHINOBU!!
Z

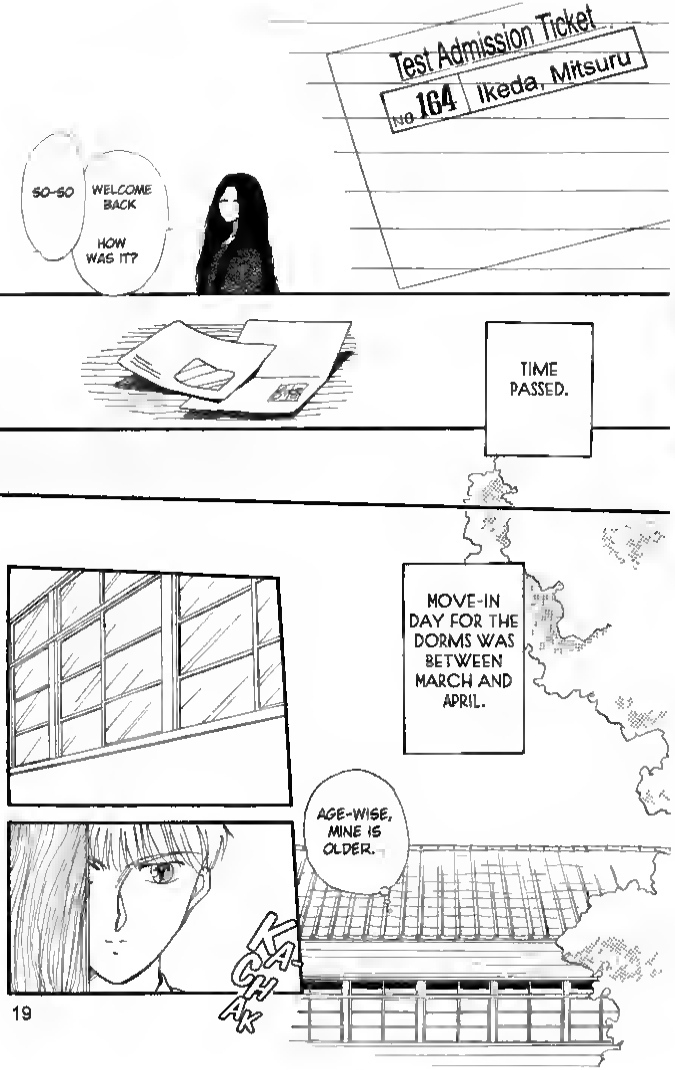

KUH-KLAAANG!
OH, SUKA-CHAN— WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?!
NO! NO-O-O-O-O-O!
You do realize you've just written yourself out of the current storyline...
BRRRING BRRRING BRRRING
Waah! Lemme out!
Too late now, kiddo!
WAIT A MINUTE, WAIT! HOW MANY PAGES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?!
Let go, you omniscient jerk!
Lemme out! Lemme out!
Nyeh heh heh
It's your own fault, stupid hero!
BRRRING BRRRING BRRRING
AN-N-NYWAY...
NOW THROUGH THE MAGIC OF MANGA!!!!! LET'S GO BACK IN TIME AND SEE HOW THESE TWO REALLY WERE BACK IN THE DAY

SAYING "DO YOUR BEST"...
SEE YOU.
I WILL.
OKAY, SEE YOU LATER.
I'D LIKE TO FINISH THE PORTRAIT, SO COME BACK SOON.
EVEN SO...
TO HIM IS POINTLESS
...I GUESS HE JUST COULDN'T BREATHE THERE.
TEZUKA SHINOBU SERRUARY OF HIS FINAL JUNIOR-HIGH YEAR.
THIS IS THE STORY...
ENTRANCE EXAMS HELD HERE

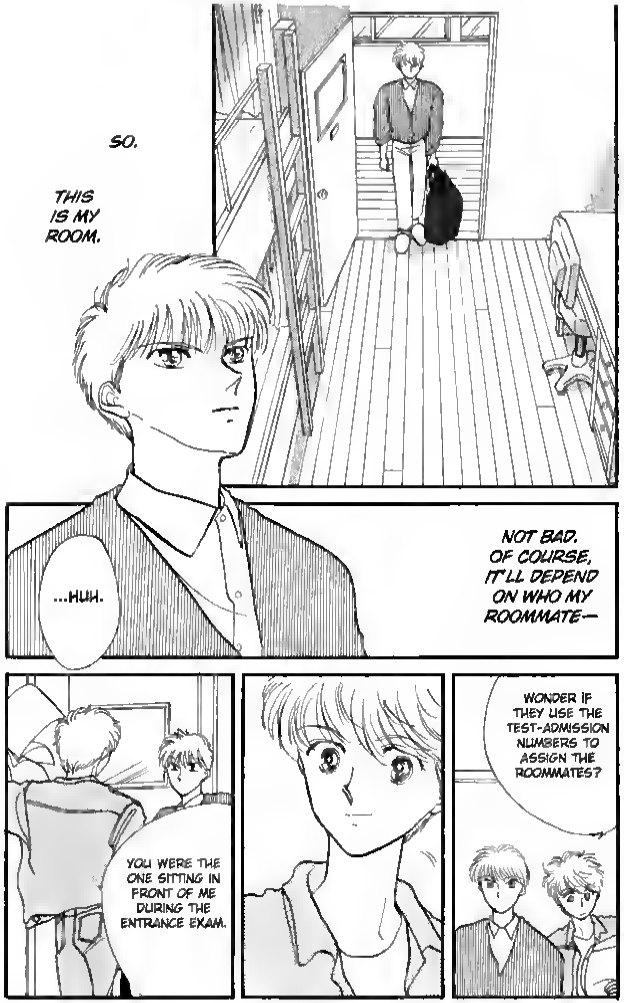
UH-HUH.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING IN SOMEWHERE FATHER HAS CONNECTIONS?
WHY RYOKUTO, THOUGH?
WHERE TO TODAY?
RYOKUTO ACADEMY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
GETTING YOUR OWN PLACE?
Though I'm surprised he allowed it.
GOOD POINT.
I FEEL SORRY FOR WHOEVER ROOMS WITH YOU.
THEY HAVE TWO-PERSON DORMS
OH, WOW.

163
THIS IS IT.
RYOKU MUNICIPAL (RYOKUTO) ACADEMY. THUS DID THE SHEEP GATHER, LURED BY THE SEDUCTIVE WINDS OF FREEDOM...
...OF A TIME BEFORE HE BELIEVED IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE
(MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE)
ONLY TO RUN LIKE HELL ONCE THE EXAM PROCTOR'S WATCH-TIMER WENT OFF...
供養一切仏
具足衆徳本
願成就衆生
得為三界雄
如仏無異智
I'M SORRY.
WAS I TOO LOUD?
...NOT AT ALL.
INTERESTING WAY TO CALM YOURSELF.
I SUPPOSE
YEAH?
IT STARTLED ME
LOOK AT HIM...
I FIGURED YOU WERE WORKING ON A GRAMMAR PROBLEM, OR...
YOU LOOK PRETTY CONFIDENT.
DO YOU
I KIND OF LIVE AT A TEMPLE
WHEN I'M NERVOUS, I START CHANTING PRAYERS

SURE IS
AT THIS POINT, IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS.
STAYING CALM IS IMPORTANT, THOUGH.
NOT REALLY.
Turn your tests face down and pass them forward, please.
WHAT'S THEIR SECRET?!
HEH
You too.
Have your Best
IKEDA MITSURU, WASN'T IT?
DING-DONG
DING-DONG
COOL GUY.

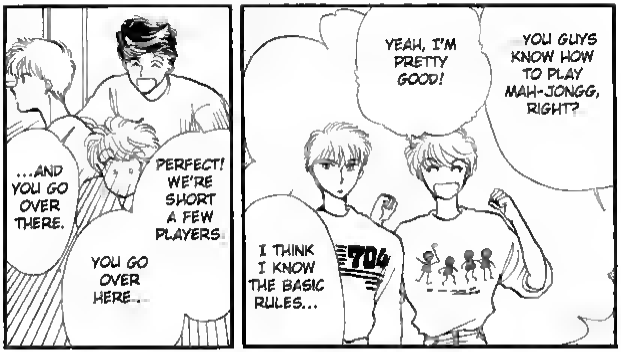

Test Admission Ticket
No. 164 Ikeda, Mitsuru
SO-SO
WELCOME BACK
HOW WAS IT?
TIME PASSED.
MOVE-IN DAY FOR THE DORMS WAS BETWEEN MARCH AND APRIL.
AGE-WISE, MINE IS OLDER.
KA-CHAK

I WAS ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME
SO YOU GOT IN.
CONGRATS
IT'S YOU...
MITSURU IKEDA GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
Pat
SHINOBU TEZUKA
Cafeteria
STUDENTS!
BETTER YET, GENTLE-MEN!
STICK TO THE RULES...
...AND YOU'RE SURE TO HAVE A FAR MORE ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE TIME DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS OF YOUR LIFE.
I'M GOING TO GO OVER SOME THINGS REGARDING LIFE IN THE DORMS.


SO.
THIS IS MY ROOM.
...HUH.
NOT BAD. OF COURSE, IT'LL DEPEND ON WHO MY ROOMMATE—
YOU WERE THE ONE SITTING IN FRONT OF ME DURING THE ENTRANCE EXAM.
WONDER IF THEY USE THE TEST-ADMISSION NUMBERS TO ASSIGN THE ROOMMATES?

BLASSH
My nose!
...I'VE ALREADY GOT IT!
THEN I'LL BE FINE...
ATHLETE'S FOOT IS CONTAGIOUS
AND TO THINK IT'S JUST THE START OF THREE LONG, GUYS-ONLY YEARS.
HEAVY SIGH
Gross-out!
I'm never getting in with him again!
IS A GERM-FREE DORM TOO MUCH TO ASK?
WHO, THOSE TWO?
HEY, CHECK THE FRESH MEAT.
AS THEIR ELDERS IN THE NEIGHBORING DORM, IT'S UP TO US TO TAKE 'EM UNDER OUR WING.
DO THEY HAVE TO BE GOOD-LOOKING?!
THE STICKIN'-UP NAIL GETS HAMMERED THE MOST, MAN. .
THAT TEZUKA JERK'S THE SON OF SOME POLITICIAN

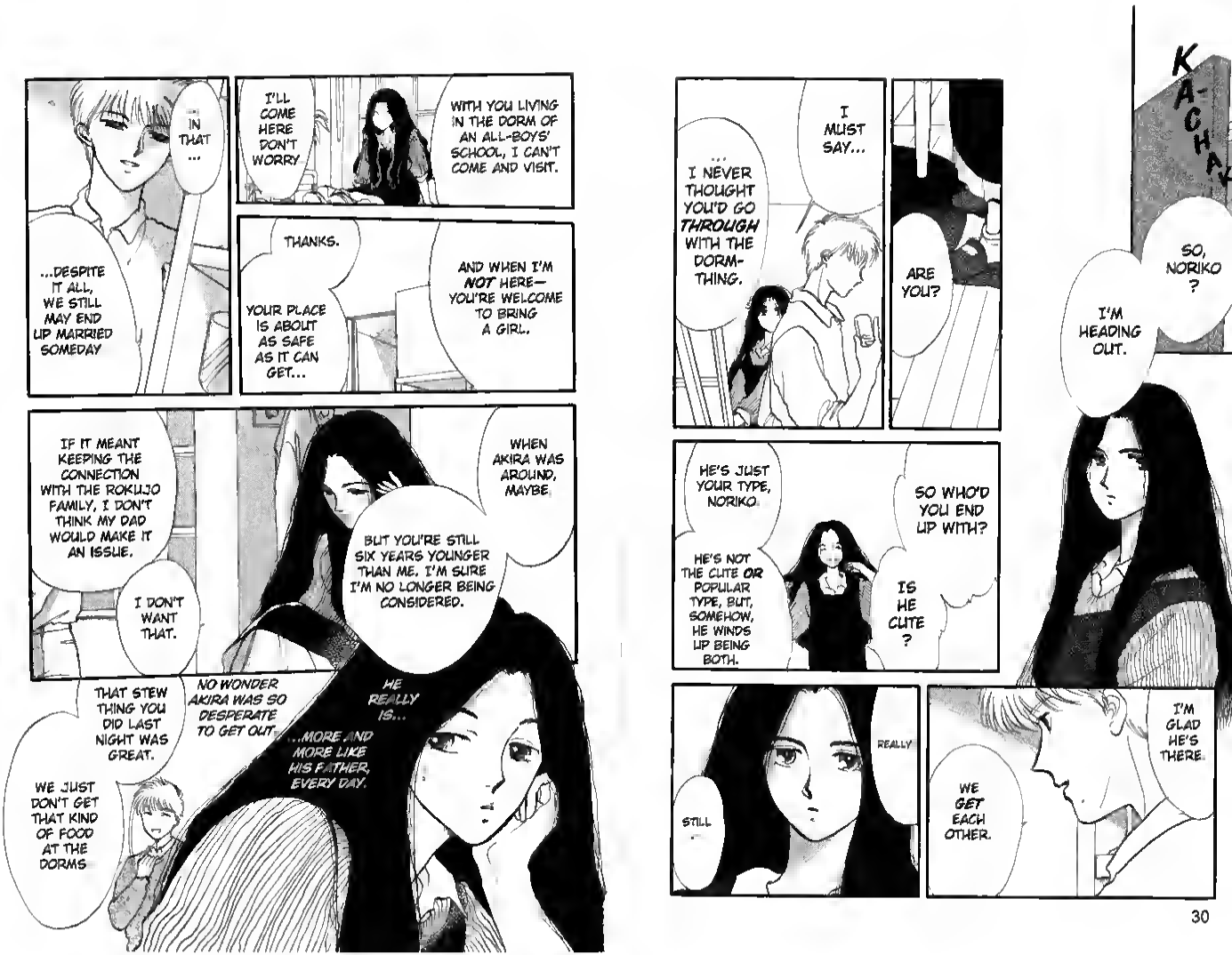
BEHAVE...
TALK ABOUT DAVID AND GOLIATH
ANY PRO-BLEMS, YOU COME SEE US.
...THIS IS FURUSAWA, THE CURRENT YEAR'S R.A.
I'M KOICHI KUSUNO, FORMER R.A., AND...
Don't give you much, but not bad...
MEANING: FINISH EATING BY 8:15 AND YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT TO CLASS
AND FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
OKAY! THE CAFETERIA'S OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. TO 8:15 A.M.,
SHOULD MUSHROOMS START GROWING ON YOUR BOXERS, WE'LL MAKE YOU EAT 'EM, SO BE WARNED!
THERE'S A LAUNDRY MACHINE IN THE BATHROOM. DON'T LET IT PILE UP, HUH?
CURFEW'S AT 9:00 P.M. AND HEAD-COUNT'S AT 11:00,
SO MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN YOUR ROOM!
BE SURE TO RINSE YOUR FEET AFTER BATHING!
WHY'S THAT?
ALSO!
KUCH-KLOPP
THE BATH IS OPEN FROM 6:00 P.M. TILL 10:00. IT GETS CROWDED, SO GO AT OFF-PEAK HOURS!
THERE'S ALSO PUBLIC BATHS IN THE AREA, SO NO EXCUSES FOR NOT BATHING AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK.


...AND YOU GO OVER THERE.
PERFECT! WE'RE SHORT A FEW PLAYERS.
YOU GO OVER HERE.
YEAH, I'M PRETTY GOOD!
YOU GUYS KNOW HOW TO PLAY MAH-JONGG, RIGHT?
I THINK I KNOW THE BASIC RULES...
"I PALE IN COMPARISON TO YOUR EVIL, MILORD."
OH HOH HOH HOH
"FIE, YOU SHAMELESS THUG!"
PSST
ONCE WE CLEAN 'EM OUT, THEY'RE GONNA OWE US, BIG-TIME!
THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE RINGERS, MAN...
HEH HEH HEH
BY LAST COUNT, I FIGURE...
I'M ABOUT ¥800,000 AHEAD.
SO WHAT NOW?
SCHLUMP
FLAPPA
THIS...
..CAN'T BE...

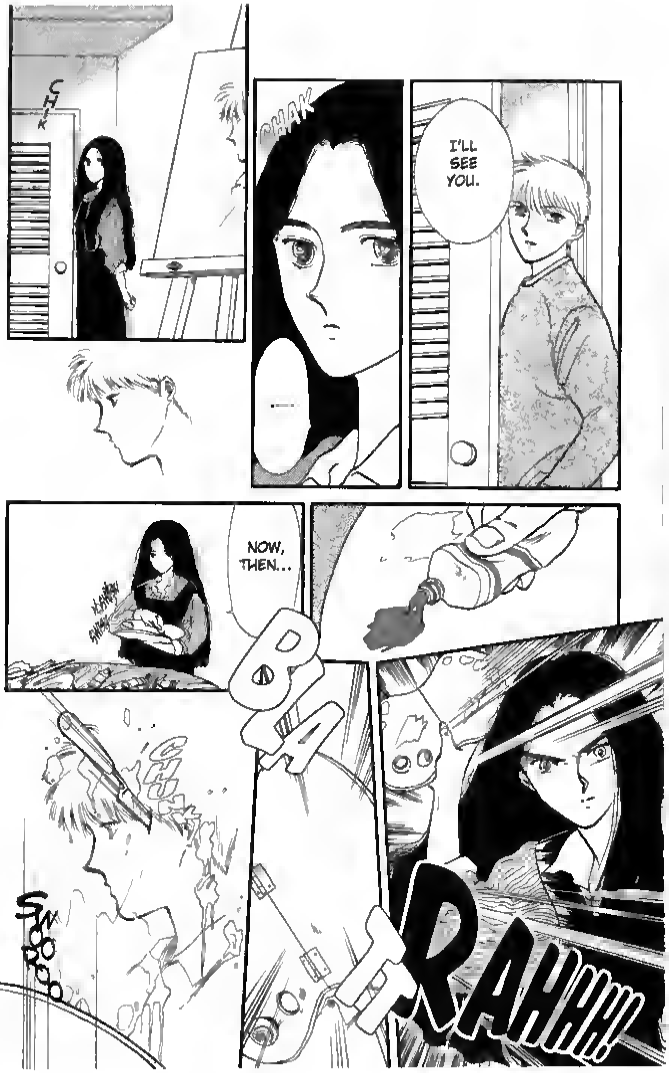
WAH HA HA HA HA
YOU SAYIN' YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR OUR LIQUOR ?!
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
WE DECIDED TO THROW YOU A WELCOME PARTY, SO COME ON OVER.
SLAM!
HEY NEW KIDS-- I'M YOUR UPPER-CLASSMAN FROM NEXT DOOR.
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU NEED TO BE TOLD?!
NEW STUDENTS ARE NOT TO BE HAZED LIKE THIS!
TIME FOR PHASE 2!
"PHASE 1" IS A FAILURE.
TSUNAK!
I WOULD, BUT...
...JUST LOOK AT THESE GUYS.
WA HA HA!
Aww, c'mon, upperclassman, loosen up!
WELL?! SAY SOMETHING, FURUSAWA! YOU ARE THE NEW R.A.

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY TAKE YOUR MONEY.
R-RIGHT! EXACTLY!
THAT'S LIKE WINNING THE "BIG CHALLENGE AWARD" AND GETTING "RUNNER-UP" ON AT THE SAME TIME!!
800,000 YEN?!
STILL, SINCE IT IS JUST FOR FUN...
LATER.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT ON MY WAY OUT.
WE'LL PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED, THEN
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY FOR THE "BIG CHALLENGE AWARD"..
NOW WHA DO WE DO?!
WE'LL NEVER PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE AT THIS RATE.
HI, HOW'S IT GO!—
TSUNAKI & MIDORI
...WHAT ABOUT ??
OH-H-H, YEAH...
WE'LL SETTLE IT WITH CHI'IWA!
I WON'T HOLD YOU TO YOUR LOSSES, SO DON'T WORRY.
LIKE I SAID, WE'RE NOT PLAYING FOR MONEY.
...THEN KABU, THEN POKER, THEN CHINCHIRORIN, DOBON, AND DAIHINMIN...
WE GOT CREAMED IN MAH-JONGG SO WE SWITCHED TO KOIKOI.
Huh?
WE'VE ONE THING LEFT ...
YOU ALL LOST ?!
I DID, BUT..
YEAH, I WON.
YOU?
TEZUKA..
YOU ALL RIGHT?
OR YOU.
NOT BAD, MAN
SINCE I HEARD YOU WERE SOME TRUST-FUND BABY.. I FIGURED I'D HAVE TO COME SAVE YOU.

AN OVER-NIGHT VISIT?
A VIDEO? WHAT'RE WE SEEING?
I CAN'T TONIGHT.
AREN'T YOU THE LITTLE LOUD.
SO I HAVE TO STAY OVER ONCE IN A WHILE TO APPEASE THEM.
YEAH, MY BROTHER AND SISTER LIVE IN THE AREA.
Keep it in your pants, sister... you ain't seen nothin yet!
I can't... Dude! Roll it Wher back!! was ther?!
UH... YEAH
HEY! GOOD MORNING.
I SUPPOSE THERE'S ALWAYS ONE OR TWO STUDENTS EACH YEAR WHO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES RIGHT OFF.
SO LONG AS IT'S JUST THE ONE OR TWO...
THE NATIVES— NOW CONSIDERABLY LESS HOSTILE— HAVE SINCE COME TO SHOW A DEGREE OF EASE IN OUR PRESENCE.
HEY GUYS, WE'RE SHOWING A VIDEO IN KAWASAKI'S ROOM TONIGHT. YOU UP FOR IT?


IN THAT ...
...DESPITE IT ALL, WE STILL MAY END UP MARRIED SOMEDAY
I'LL COME HERE DON'T WORRY
WITH YOU LIVING IN THE DORM OF AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL, I CAN'T COME AND VISIT.
THANKS.
YOUR PLACE IS ABOUT AS SAFE AS IT CAN GET...
AND WHEN I'M NOT HERE— YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING A GIRL.
IF IT MEANT KEEPING THE CONNECTION WITH THE ROKUJO FAMILY, I DON'T THINK MY DAD WOULD MAKE IT AN ISSUE.
I DON'T WANT THAT.
WHEN AKIRA WAS AROUND, MAYBE.
BUT YOU'RE STILL SIX YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME. I'M SURE I'M NO LONGER BEING CONSIDERED.
THAT STEW THING YOU DID LAST NIGHT WAS GREAT.
WE JUST DON'T GET THAT KIND OF FOOD AT THE DORMS
NO WONDER AKIRA WAS SO DESPERATE TO GET OUT.
WE REALLY IS...
...MORE AND MORE LIKE HIS FATHER, EVERY DAY.
I MUST SAY...
...I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GO THROUGH WITH THE DORM-THING.
ARE YOU?
KA-CHAK
SO, NORIKO?
I'M HEADING OUT.
SO WHO'D YOU END UP WITH?
HE'S JUST YOUR TYPE, NORIKO.
HE'S NOT THE CUTE OR POPULAR TYPE, BUT, SOMEHOW, HE WINDS UP BEING BOTH.
IS HE CUTE?
REALLY
STILL...
I'M GLAD HE'S THERE.
WE GET EACH OTHER.

TITLE ... TITLE ...
WHAT SHALL I CALL THIS PIECE?
You Shinobu fans out there already hate me, right? Why even bother.
A GENIUS IS BORN.
THE TITLE IS ...
"SOLITUDE"
TEZUKA!!
MEANING ...
I HEARD YOU'RE SPEAKING AT THE COMMENCE-MENT!
UH-HUH.


CHK
CHAK
I'LL SEE YOU.
NOW, THEN...
BA
RAHHH!!

SHELTER FROM THE STORM
(PART TWO)

HEY, LET'S SEE THAT STUDENT I.D....
IS IT REAL?
HEY! THIS PAPER FEELS WRONG!!
I GOT IN, BUT ONLY ON PROBATION
YOU ARE HUMAN, AREN'T YOU??
WELL, SOMEONE HAS TO GET THE BEST TEST-SCORE
...YOU'RE TOP OF THE CLASS.
THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE.
I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO USE THEM SOME-HOW ...

THERE ARE SEVEN CLASSES TOTAL (A THROUGH G). A IS TOP OF THE CLASS. B BECOMES FROM THE TOP, ETC. SO, WITH TWO "BELOW" MITSURU MIGHT THINK FROM THE BOTTOM (AT LEAST I)
—EDITOR
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GUYS WHO DECIDED NOT TO ENROLL HERE, I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN IN AT ALL!
Whew
Next
THE FACT THAT I'M CLASS "E" MEANS THERE'S TWO MORE BELOW ME
AND THAT MEANS
SEEMS LIKE IT
1 2 3
A B C
4 5 6
D E F
SO TEZUKA'S IN CLASS A, HUH?
I WONDER IF IT'S TEST SCORE THAT ASSIGNS YOU TO A CLASS
It's been about a week since I started school.
I've grown used to the dorm life you were so worried about and am doing well.
STILL
AREN'T YOU GLAD THERE ARE GUYS WHO DECIDED NOT TO ENROLL HERE?
The other students are all unique in their own ways, spending time with them offers its own rewards.
IKEDA-A-A-A!!
My roommate, Ikeda Mitsuru, in particular— we get along surprisingly well. I really think we might become quite good friends.

LOOKING TO OUR UPPERCLASSMEN FOR ADVICE—
—WE, THE INCOMING CLASS, WILL DO OUR BEST TO BECOME WORTHY OF THE GOOD NAME OF RYOKUTO ACADEMY
To whom —
...it may concern.
NEW STUDENT REPRE-SENTATIVE
TEZUKA SHINOBU
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
Head of the class.
Check him.
The smartest
CURL CURL
CURL CURL
CURL CURL
WHAT'S HE GOT, NERVES OF PORCELAIN?
HE DOESN'T LOOK NERVOUS AT ALL.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK

KLUNK
Hoping this finds you all in good health, warmest regards...
I may not have many chances to see you over the next three years, so forgive me. Please know, however, that I do plan to concentrate on my studies and am aiming for the grades to prove it.
After that, there'll be Student Council elections. It should be a very busy time.
Shimabu
WELCOME BACK
THANKS
——...
IKEDA MITSURU
CHAK

HEY GUYS!
IKEDA! HEY, THERE!
Since his family's in the area, friends from his Junior High are always coming by.
See you later, Samurai!
We love you!!
DASH
BYE FOR NOW!
GOOD LUCK, HUH?
DUB
SCHOOL'S ALREADY STARTED FOR YOU, RIGHT, SEMPAI?
MR.
THESE ARE FOR YOUR GETTING IN HERE.
OH, NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
POPULAR, AREN'T YOU
Regular classes will be starting soon.
In April, there's to be a volleyball tournament, with new students going up against second- and third-year students.
AND YOU'VE BEEN DOIN' THE SAME THING ALL THE WAY FROM JUNIOR HIGH, HAVEN'T YOU, PUNK?
WHAT'RE YOU, SOME DELINQUENT MONK?!
NO, I...
WELL, I
WHO THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
.....

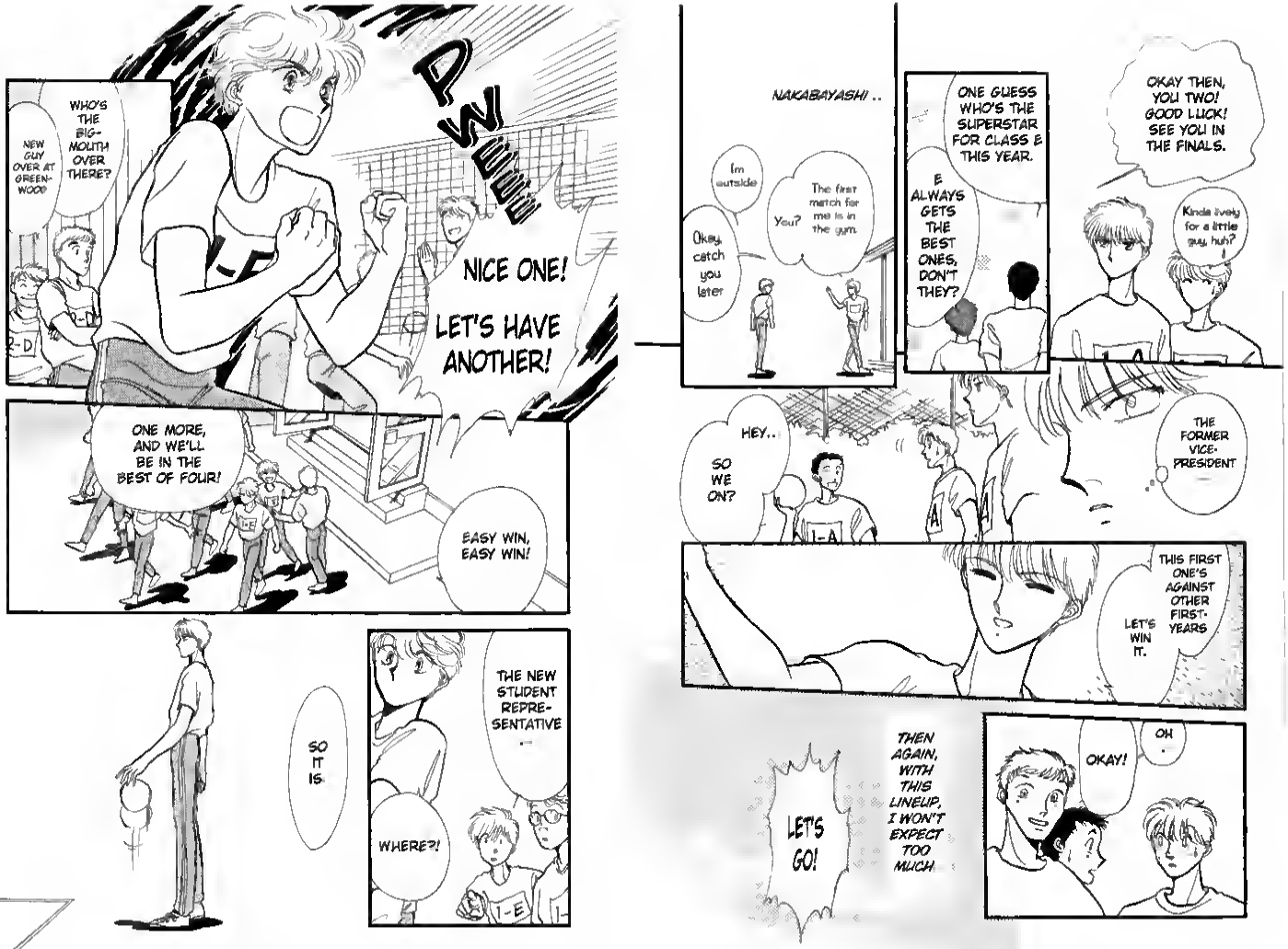
HEH HEH
WHY, NO!
WE'RE SCOUTS FROM THE ENGLISH-CONVERSATION CLUB. HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO JOINING A CLUB?
YOU'RE TEZUKA, RIGHT?
YES.
BEST TO KEEP HIM AROUND AS AN ALLY
HEY.
I'M NOT PLANNING ON JOINING ANY CLUBS
LIKE I SAID—
SPIT IT OUT, PUNK! AND YOU BETTER THINK BEFORE YOU TALK!
YOU SAYIN' THE MOVIE CLUB'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH JOINING YOUR CLUB?!
I TOLD YOU WHERE THE BATHHOUSE WAS!
LAST NIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU FORGETTING WHAT YOU OWE ME FROM LAST NIGHT?!

HE SEEMS LIKE THE REAL DEAL. THAT MOVIE-STAR SMILE OF HIS... HE'S LIKE THE SCHOOL'S IDOL.
GET BACK HERE!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
SCOUTS FOR THE MOVIE-RESEARCH CLUB, I THINK.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, MESSING WITH GUYS LIKE HIM IS ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE.
HE CAN'T REALLY BE SO NAIVE, CAN HE?
TMPTMPTMPTMP
STILL, HE'S EASY ENOUGH TO MANIPULATE
...ALL THE SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS SHORT ON MEMBERS ARE DESPERATE TO RECRUIT.
EVER SINCE STUDENT ORIENTATION
These are the people I represent
Would you like to become a star?
Who me?!

STILL...
WHY AREN'T I SURPRISED?
I WAS IN THE KENDO CLUB!
STUDENT COUNCIL?
THE TRUTH IS..
I AM CONSIDERING STUDENT COUNCIL
HEY, WHY NOT? THAT'S A GREAT IDEA
GOING FOR VICE-PREZ?
THANKS.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD WIN EVEN WITHOUT ME, THOUGH
SURE I WILL!
WILL YOU HELP ME CAMPAIGN IF I DO?
I'M GREAT AT STUFF LIKE THAT!

WHAT'S THAT?
Seek Salvation
Let us pray!
THE LORD LISTENS ALWAYS TO OUR VOICES
ARE THEY A CLUB, TOO?!
AW, GEEZ...
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE, TEZUKA?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE AT LEAST CONSIDERED A FEW.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY ALL THE UPPER-CLASSMEN HAVE BEEN SO NICE THESE PAST FEW DAYS
THIS EXPLAINS IT.
NAH, THEY ALL WANTED ME TO SHAVE MY HEAD..
BAND, HUH?
I FIGURED YOU MORE FOR A JOCK.
I USED TO BE IN BRASS BAND...
...BUT LET ME SEE HOW THINGS GO

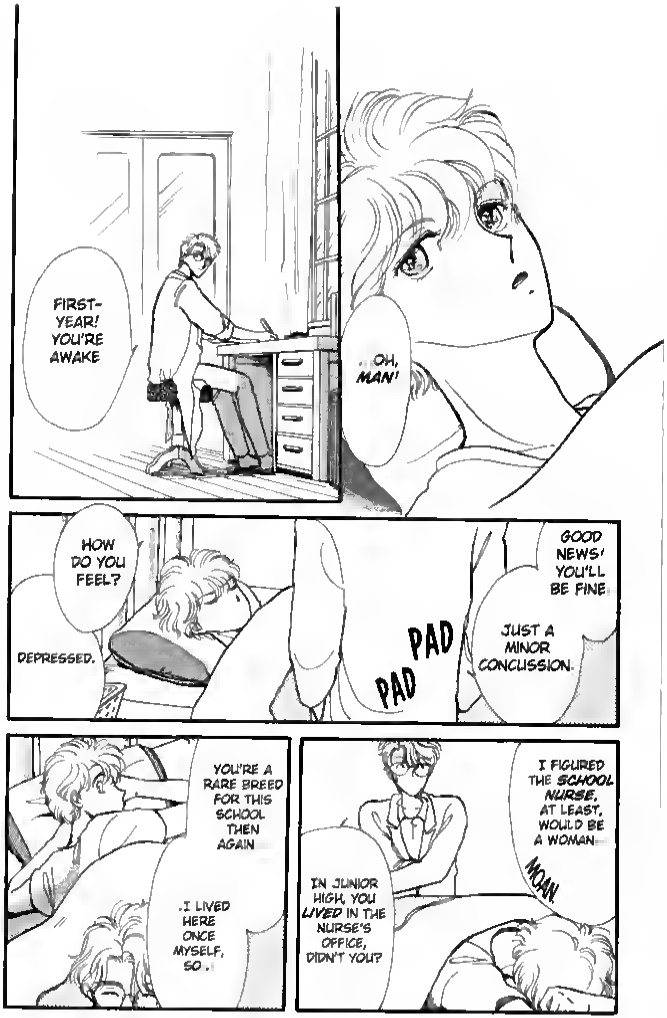
SAY HELLO TO OUR DORM'S TWO BEST HOPES THIS YEAR.
NAKA-BAYA-SHI
SEMPAI
PLEASE, WE'LL LOSE EVEN MORE MEMBERS!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE TO EVER MAKE THE CITY CHAM-PIONSHIPS
THIS IS NAKABAYASHI, AN UNDER-CLASSMAN IN THE TENNIS CLUB
OH
KUSUNO-SEMPAI
YO, NAKA-BAYASHI!
OVER HERE
3-A
2-E
...IN STUDENT COUNCIL?
CURRENT VICE-PRESIDENT, YES
HEY, AREN'T YOU ALSO
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THE TENNIS CLUB, SEMPAI
THE VOLLEY-BALL TOURNEY IS ONLY THE START
THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL IN THE FALL IS THE SCHOOL'S BIGGEST EVENT
I'D APPRE-CIATE YOUR VOTE
AND THE NEXT ASPIRING PRESIDENT
AM I RIGHT?
2-E
3-A
I'M ON IT.
I DON'T PLAY NOT TO WIN.
...NO PRESSURE, HUH?
THE OUTCOME WILL SET THE TONE FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR, SO...
...WHO TO MAKE PRESIDENT.
NOW THE ONLY QUESTION IS...
UH-HUH.
GOING TO YOUR MATCH?
TEZUKA!
HEY! GUYS!
IF I'M GONNA COMPETE, I WANNA WIN--BUT AGAINST THESE THIRD-YEARS.
THIS SURE IS A STRANGE SCHOOL.
IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE START OF CLASSES.
1-E


PWEEE
NICE ONE!
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER!
WHO'S THE BIG-MOUTH OVER THERE?
NEW GUY OVER AT GREEN-WOOD
ONE MORE, AND WE'LL BE IN THE BEST OF FOUR!
EASY WIN, EASY WIN!
SO IT IS.
THE NEW STUDENT REPRE-SENTATIVE ...
WHERE?!
NAKABAYASHI ..
I'm outside
Okay, catch you later
You?
The first match for me is in the gym.
ONE GUESS WHO'S THE SUPERSTAR FOR CLASS E THIS YEAR.
E ALWAYS GETS THE BEST ONES, DON'T THEY?
OKAY THEN, YOU TWO! GOOD LUCK! SEE YOU IN THE FINALS.
Kinda lively for a little guy, huh?
HEY..
SO WE ON?
THE FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT
THIS FIRST ONE'S AGAINST OTHER FIRST-YEARS
LET'S WIN IT.
LET'S GO!
THEN AGAIN, WITH THIS LINEUP, I WON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH.
OH.
OKAY!

I HEAR THEY'RE GOING UP AGAINST THIRD-YEARS
A FIRST-YEAR TEAM MADE IT TO BEST OF FOUR!
WOO. YEAH! WOO!
YEAH... 'CAUSE OF IKEDA!
WHAT? OUR CLASS IS—
BOMMP
EAT THIS: YEAR-THREE PRESENCE SPIKE!!
C-CAN YOU ...?!
IT'S GOING YOUR WAY!
BOMMP
AGH!
LUCKY YOU.
Type of Hero class
DUDE IS GOOD.
Hate him
YO, IKEDA, ISN'T HE YOUR ROOMMATE?
I-E
... WHA? UH-HUH.
BOMMP
YEAH...
PWEEE
TRUDGE TRUDGE
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
HEY, THEY WERE SECOND-YEARS WHO CAN BLAME US?
KNOCKED OUT IN THE 2ND MATCH, GEEZ.
I-A

BASY DOES IT, EASY...
CALL A TEACHER! AND BRING A STRETCHER!
DO IT! NOW!
WHOA.. HE'S OUT COLD.
AND HE DIDN'T EVEN GET A SCRATCH.
2-E
2-E
DIDN'T HE HIT THE FENCE FACE-FIRST?
SAY...
2-E
2-E
...KIDS...
MOVE IT!
BWOMP
GOT IT!
IKEDA! Y-YOU OKAY?!
BWOMP
YO! THE BALL'S STILL IN PLAY!!
KR-SHOOSH
.....
2-E

YOU WERE GRADUATED FROM RYOKUTO .. AND YOU'RE WORKING HERE, AS A SCHOOL NURSE?!
WHAT OF IT?
.....
Wouldn't think it huh?
DOC!
YOU WENT HERE, TOO?
And yet why won't he listen?? Don't I try?? He was so cute when he was little..
UH-HUH.
I CHOSE THIS LINE OF WORK SO THAT I COULD LISTEN—TO THOSE STUDENTS THOSE UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES!!
THERE MUST BE THINGS THEY CAN'T TALK ABOUT WITH TEACHERS WHO GRADE THEM, OR FEMALE NURSES, WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.
HIGH-SCHOOL KIDS HAVE A LOT ON THEIR MINDS THESE DAYS!
Year 1
Medical Ch
E No 02
SURE, YEAH.
HM? UH ..
SO, DOC, CAN I GO NOW?
WE DO HAVE A LOT ON OUR MINDS.
YOU'VE GOT A POINT, I GUESS


FIRST-YEAR! YOU'RE AWAKE
..OH, MAN!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
DEPRESSED.
PAD PAD
JUST A MINOR CONCUSSION.
GOOD NEWS! YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE A RARE BREED FOR THIS SCHOOL THEN AGAIN
.I LIVED HERE ONCE MYSELF, SO .
IN JUNIOR HIGH, YOU LIVED IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, DIDN'T YOU?
I FIGURED THE SCHOOL NURSE, AT LEAST, WOULD BE A WOMAN...
MOAN

LOOK, IF IT CAN BE SOLVED BY *TALKING*— THANK YOU. BUT I'M OKAY.

I'M IMPRESSED.
THE KID'S GOT SPIRIT.
WELL, THAT WAS UNEXPECTED.
WHAT WAS?
EXCUSE US.
KLATATT
KLATTANT

HE'S JUST ABOUT TO BOOT ME
HOW ARE YOU FEELING ?
YO!
EXCUSE ME
NITOU.

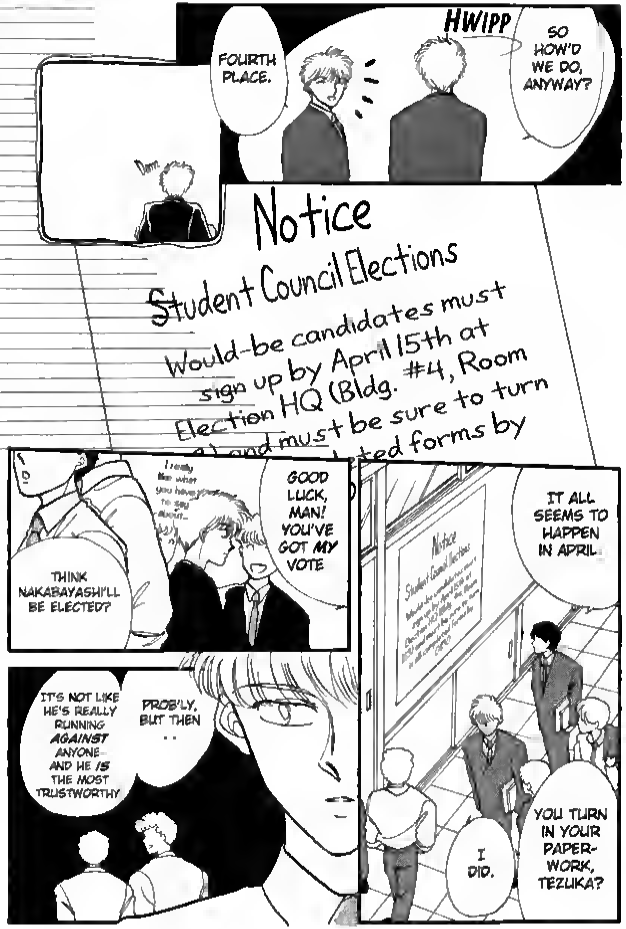
HE'S MY ROOMMATE
YES.
YOU MUST BE THE NEW STUDENT REP...

I CAN'T SOLVE *ALL* YOUR PROBLEMS, BUT I CAN LISTEN.
WELL, ANYWAY.
YOU NEED ANYTHING, COME SEE ME
CONFIDENTIALLY, OF COURSE.
...HUH.
TEZUKA, CLASS A.

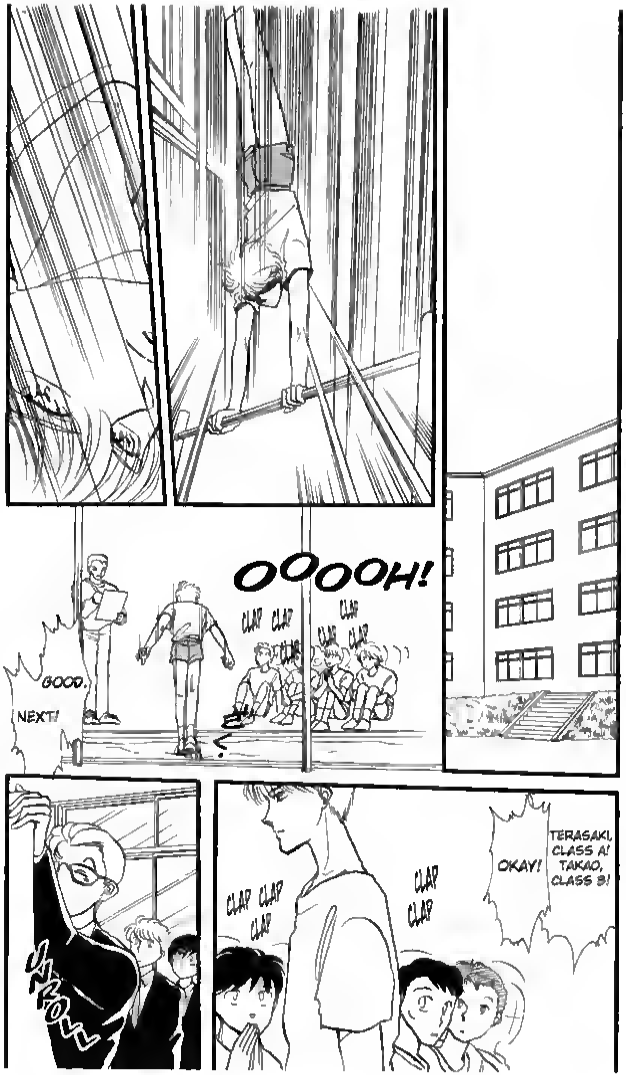
.. IT WAS JUST KIND OF INSULTING TO THEM, IS ALL.
THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
"INSULTING."
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.
THIS GUY...
HE'S NOT NEARLY AS DUMB AS I THOUGHT.

LOOK.
I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM WITH ACCEPTING HELP—MOST OF THE TIME, ANYWAY—BUT WITH THIS, I...
I DO!
I FIGURED YOU FOR THE TYPE WHO, WHEN PEOPLE EXTEND A HAND, YOU TAKE IT.
DON'T LIE
I'M NO GOOD AT VOLLEY-BALL, IS ALL, AND...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
THOSE YEAR-TWOS COULDN'T TOUCH YOU UNLESS YOU WANTED THEM TO.
I WHAT?
DURING THE MATCH, YOU...
...YOU DIDN'T TRY.
YOU DIDN'T TRY TO WIN.
It is a sucky team.
SURE, WITH A TEAM LIKE THAT, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE WON ANYWAY.
THINK WHAT YOU WANT, THE OTHER GUYS WERE DOING THEIR BEST.
AND TO DO WHAT YOU DID
DON'T WORRY, NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED. BUT STILL..

SHELTER FROM THE STORM (PART THREE)


HWIPP
FOURTH PLACE.
SO HOW'D WE DO, ANYWAY?
Notice
Student Council Elections
Would-be candidates must
sign up by April 15th at
Election HQ (Bldg. #4, Room
GOOD LUCK, MAN! YOU'VE GOT MY VOTE
THINK NAKABAYASHI'LL BE ELECTED?
IT ALL SEEMS TO HAPPEN IN APRIL.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S REALLY RUNNING AGAINST ANYONE— AND HE IS THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY
PROB'LY, BUT THEN . .
I DID.
YOU TURN IN YOUR PAPER-WORK, TEZUKA?

HEY, CHECK IT OUT. TEZUKA'S RUNNING.
YOU'RE RIGHT
STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
MUMU
MUMU
SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK. DOES HE HAVE TO BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING?
I HEAR HE'S GOOD AT SPORTS, TOO
HE DID?
HEAR ABOUT IKEDA? HE NAILED A 2-METER JUMP IN GYM CLASS TODAY.
WELL, WHEN HE LANDED, HE SLID OFF THE EDGE OF THE MAT. SO NOW HE'S ...
SLOP
THAT'S GREAT. AND HOW IS HE?


OOOOH!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
GOOD. NEXT!
UNOH
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
OKAY! TERASAKI, CLASS A! TAKAO, CLASS B!

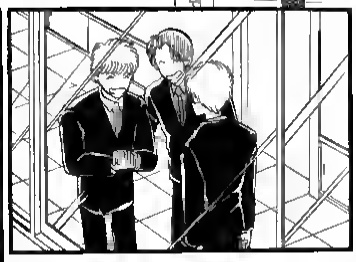
BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO, TEZUKA?
TEZUKA!
SOUNDS GOOD.
TOGETHER, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO RULE THE SCHOOL!!
HWIPP
EVEN IF YOU DO HAVE SAIKI IN YOUR POCKET, NAKABAYASHI'S RECORD IS NEARLY PERFECT.
WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE
NOT IF WE FIGHT FAIR, NO.
THERE'S STILL THE HUGE DENT YOU PUT INTO THE CLUB BUDGET TO CONSIDER, EH, TREASURER?
GWAH!
LOOK, KEEP SAIKI HAPPY...
Y-YOU'RE NOT SAYING—
...AND LEAVE THE HEAVY LIFTING TO ME
RIGHT, THEN.
UNTIL LATER?
...IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
HEY, SO...
WHO'S THIS "SAIKI" GUY?!
NOPE.
...NAKABAYASHI ISN'T RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRESIDENT ANYMORE.
NAHAHA! HAHA!
UWAH-AHAH-HAH-HA-HAHAHA!
THE STUDENT-COUNCIL PRESIDENCY WILL BE MINE... OH, YES!
WHO CARES IF NAKABAYASHI IS THE INCUMBENT?!
UWAH HAH HAH HAH
ENGLISH CLUB

...
IF HE WERE TO WIN THINGS COULD BECOME DIFFICULT.
Geez, they didn't have to...
CHAK
NOTHING FOR ME TO WORRY ABOUT ASIDE FROM NAKABAYASHI MAKOTO, THAT IS
HIS RECORD'S SO CLEAN, HE'S PRACTICALLY UNTOUCHABLE.
I THOUGHT AS MUCH
THE BATH'S OPEN
THANKS I'LL GO NOW
With friends like these, who needs enemies?
I'D THOUGHT THINGS MIGHT BE DIFFEREHT AFTER THE VOLLEYBALL MATCH, BUT...
TROMP TROMP TROMP
...HERE'S THAT STUFF YOU WANTED ON THE OTHER CANDIDATES.
DAAAAA-!!
WOULDN'T BE ME-E-E-ERE, WOULD IT??
WHERE'D YOU SLIDE ON YOUR BACK, AGAIN?
WHAAAT?

That's brotherly Girl
HEY! HEY! HEY!
YOU GOT MY VOTE... YOU GONNA EAT THIS?
ANYONE WHO RUNS FOR ANYTHING ALWAYS GETS THE DORM'S FULL SUPPORT DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
THEY DO, HUH?
ME, I THINK IT'D BE GREAT IF TEZUKA RAN FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.
NAKABAYASHI AND TEZUKA... TALK ABOUT YOUR SURE THING!
YOU'RE GONNA RUN ON THE SAME TICKET WITH NAKABAYASHI, RIGHT?
ONE NEVER DOES KNOW, DOES ONE?
BEAM

SO, TEZUKA ... WHAT'LL YOU DO?
NOTHING'S CHANGED
DID I THINK IT WOULD?
CAMPAIGN POSTERS, HOW'RE YOU GONNA ..
HUH?
OH. THAT.
You're the best guy Class A's got
We're on it, man!
We do you proud, man.
ALREADY GOT GUYS FROM THE CLASS ON IT
WHAT'S A GUY GOTTA DO TO MAKE YOU OPEN UP?!
KUNK
SO, THEN, ALL I'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT IS YOUR CAMPAIGN SPEECH...

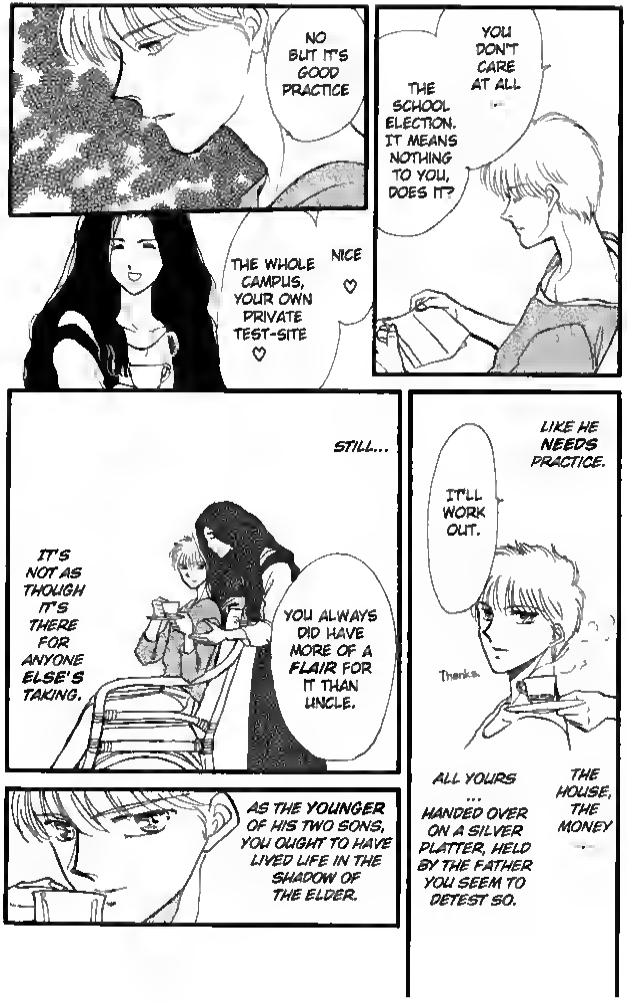
THEIR PARENTS MUST'VE BROUGHT THEM UP RIGHT.
THOUGH IT'S LEFT THEM ALL SO .. OPEN.
I TALKED TO THE GUYS IN THE CLUB. THEY'RE COOL WITH WHATEVER.
GOOD I'M GLAD.



SOME "TOP UNIVERSITY" HUH?

HERE.
THIS CAME FOR YOU, SHINOBU.
ARE AS WELL-MEANING AND INNOCENT AS YOURS.
HE IS CLEAN
AS IN SQUEAKY
FLIP...
NAKAMAYASHI, MAKOTO EYES-ONLY REPORT
ARE YOU REALLY FEELING AS THREATENED AS ALL THAT?
YOU'VE OUTDONE YOURSELF.
HIRING A PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATOR FOR SOME SILLY SCHOOL ELECTION?
ME? NO.
OF COURSE NOT.
POUR
POUR
POUR
NO. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.

SORRY FOR...
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR FRIENDS.
IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT YOUR NAME
IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "HEART OF A SWORD."
林幹夫 2-D
ONE MORE WEEK UNTIL ELECTIONS.
WE'RE NO CLOSER TO CATCHING NAKABAYASHI NOW THAN WE WERE THEN.


NO BUT IT'S GOOD PRACTICE
THE WHOLE CAMPUS, YOUR OWN PRIVATE TEST-SITE ♡
NICE ♡
YOU DON'T CARE AT ALL
THE SCHOOL ELECTION. IT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, DOES IT?
STILL...
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH IT'S THERE FOR ANYONE ELSE'S TAKING.
YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE MORE OF A FLAIR FOR IT THAN UNCLE.
AS THE YOUNGER OF HIS TWO SONS, YOU OUGHT TO HAVE LIVED LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE ELDER.
LIKE HE NEEDS PRACTICE.
IT'LL WORK OUT.
Thanks.
ALL YOURS ... HANDED OVER ON A SILVER PLATTER, HELD BY THE FATHER YOU SEEM TO DETEST SO.
THE HOUSE, THE MONEY ...

SOME-THING'S GOING ON AROUND CAMPUS, I KNOW THAT MUCH.
THAT HEAD OF THE ENGLISH CLUB, SAIKI, FOR EXAMPLE.
GUYS WHO KNOW HIM SAY HE'S NEVER EVEN SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN ELECTIONS BEFORE NOW.
NOT THAT I THINK NAKA-BAYASHI'S IN ANY DANGER OF LOSING, BUT—
LOOK, NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT..
HUH?
WHAT?
BUT...
.. AND SO, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, NAKA-BAYASHI-SEMPAI HAS ASKED THAT I WRITE HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECH.
IS THAT COOL WITH YOU?
ORIGINALLY, NAKABAYASHI-SEMPAI HAD ASKED ME TO WRITE IT, BUT...
IT ACTUALLY WORKS OUT OKAY.
SINCE THERE'S NO RULE ABOUT WRITING FOR TWO DIFFERENT GUYS.
SURE! IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT?
WHO KNEW?

THE SEMPAI OF MY CLUB.
HE HAS...
...TO BE CONVINCED TO DROP OUT, AFTER ALL.
BUT HOW?
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, WHICH IS WHY ...I'M IN SUCH A ROUGH SPOT.
3-A
..KINDA HINTED THAT I SHOULD VOTE FOR SAIKI.
I HEAR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE'S EVEN STARTED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION...
...ALTHOUGH, AS YET, THERE'S NO HARD EVIDENCE.
WOW.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
..I SEE.

?!
YOU MEAN YOU.
HEH
PLAYING MR. CALM, COOL AND COLLECTED ALL THE TIME IS FINE...
...BUT I BET IT GETS TIRING SOMETIMES.
WHY NOT SHOW WHAT YOU REALLY FEEL?
I'VE SEEN ONLY TWO LOOKS ON YOU SINCE WE MET: "SMILE" AND "SMUG."
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE THE OLDEST OF A TEMPLE-CARETAKING FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?
SO, HEY...
...WHAT DO YOU WANNA BE WHEN YOU GROW UP, ANYWAY?

HAPPY GO LUCKY GUY, HUH!
...I'LL TRY!
MAYBE HE'LL BE OF SOME USE AFTER ALL.
Don't mention it
IT IS?! THANKS, DUDE!
BE COUNTING ON YOU, MITSURU!
IT'S JUST, Y'KNOW, LOWERCLASSMAN OR NOT, NAKABAYASHI'S THE KIND OF GUY YOU CAN COUNT ON. IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOULD BE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT!
POPULAR EVEN WITH THE THIRD-YEARS, NOW.
LOOK AT HIM.
YOU OKAY?
IT MUST BE THE WAY YOU SMILE ALL THE TIME.
OH, UH, I WAS THINKING OF HOW POPULAR YOU ARE.
HUH?

THE ONE THING I BET YOU CAN'T STAND... IS TO BE DISLIKED
They'll be serving dinner soon.
TMP TMP
YOU'VE GOT THIS COMING!!
SHINOBU TEZUKA

?
YEAH. LOOK
WHAT?
I AM, BUT I'M ALSO ADOPTED ...
...MEANING THAT MY CHANCES OF INHERITING THE TEMPLE ARE SLIM TO NONE.
I DIDN'T GET THROWN OUT OR ANYTHING, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
I-I WASN'T.
JUST ...
DON'T GET ME WRONG, HUH?
... A LOT.
THAT EXPLAINS ...
AH.

BAG (CONTAINS: (2) 350 ML CANS (COLA, (10) MAGAZINES, (4) "AA" BATTERIES
SWAT
WOOT
WOOT
RIMP
AAH!
WHO— WHAT— BAD— HOW— HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU, A CHICKEN-SHIT?! WHO'S IN THERE?!
WHY, YOU...!
SMASH
HEY ...
IT ALL START WITH A SIMP AUTOMOBILE
WHAT THE HELL WAS—
"JUST AS BAD" AS WHAT?!
.....

STUMBLE
GULP
NERD CLUB, NOT JOCK RIGHT?
AWKWARD STANCE POOR FORM. LET ME GUESS
WOOSH
WA-A-AIT A SEC! YOU'RE THAT WRITER GUY!
C'MON, WE GOTTA—
HUH?
TEZUKA...
OOF
THAT MAKES YOU JUST AS BAD AS HIM!!

SHELTER FROM THE STORM
(PART FOUR)

"INVOLVED" IN WHAT, THE ELECTIONS?
YEAH.
SO WHAT IS IT...
I'M SORRY I INVOLVED YOU
I NEVER MEANT FOR IT TO GO THIS FAR.
THEY OBVIOUSLY HEARD YOU'RE WRITING MY CAMPAIGN SPEECH
THEY PROBABLY FIGURE YOU'RE IN ON IT WITH ME
...PICKING UP A FEW VOTES FOR SAIKI-SEMPAI
...THEY THINK I'M "IN" ON?
NOT MUCH. JUST

TEZUKA !!
... WAIT, WAIT! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU, TEZUKA?
... THAT'S ABOUT IT.
AND ...
LOOK. IF WE WERE TO COMPETE FAIRLY, THERE'S NO WAY SAIKI WOULD WIN. HE'S GOT NEXT TO NO CHARISMA, AND HE'S QUALIFIED FOR EXACTLY NOTHING.
WHICH IS WHY ...
I'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE LOOKING INTO PEOPLE'S BACKGROUNDS.
EVERYONE HAS A SKELETON IN HIS CLOSET, RIGHT? EVERYONE
IF WE CAN GET THEIR VOTES, GREAT

HAVE I WHAT?!
IKEDA
YOU'RE A TEMPLE KID, RIGHT?
HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN STRUCK DOWN WHERE YOU STOOD?
...JUST SO WE'D TRUST YOU?!
YOU'VE BEEN FAKING IT ALL ALONG. ALL THOSE SMILES...
HOW DARE YOU?
.....
IT ALL STARTED WITH A STRAIGHT FORWARD
"I'LL DO SUCH-AND-SUCH, IF YOU'LL JUST SO-AND-SO."
YOU EVER BARGAIN WITH GOD? WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
NOW TAKE MY FAMILY. YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF THE MESSED-UP CRAP WE'VE DONE—AND NOT JUST TO OUTSIDERS, EITHER. WE SCREW EACH OTHER OVER JUST AS EASILY
AND YET NO LIGHTNING BOLT EVER STRUCK US FROM OUT OF THE SKY.
EVEN ME...
THE THING WAS, EVEN IF YOU WERE "GOOD," OR WHATEVER, THE BARGAIN WOULDN'T HOLD, AND YOU WOULDN'T GET IT.
NOT UNLESS YOU WOULD'VE GOTTEN IT ANYWAY, THAT IS
IT ALL STARTED WITH A SIMPLE AUTOMOBILE
EVEN WITH ALL THAT, THOUGH, WE'RE STILL NOT CLOSE TO BEATING NAKABAYASHI-SEMPAI
AND THAT'S WHY—
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
AND, THANKS TO THOSE SKELETONS, SAIKI'S LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE A FRONT-RUNNER. WELL? AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?
IT'S NOT WHAT HE DOES, BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HIM
WHAT'S KUSUNO-SEMPAI EVER DONE TO—
BUT HE'S NEARLY BULLET-PROOF.
MAYBE IF SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM WERE TO DROP OUT... OR, SAY, COULDN'T BE REACHED...
...I'M TRYING TO WORK AN ANGLE WHERE NAKABAYASHI DROPS OUT ON HIS OWN
YOU SLEAZE ...!
AND THAT, CONSIDERING MY OWN POPULARITY AT GREENWOOD, SHOULD BE A CINCH.
AFTER THAT, IT'S JUST GETTING MYSELF ELECTED.

FOUR MORE DAYS 'TIL THE SPEECH, DUDE!
DON'T MAKE ME SORRY I ASKED YOU
IT ALL STINK
WITH ASTH
AUTOPHOBIA
BINGO.
AND DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID... NOT IF YOU CARE FOR YOUR FRIENDS THE WAY I OBVIOUSLY DON'T CARE FOR MINE
JUST LIKE THAT.
NOBODY SAID LIFE WAS FAIR. "GOOD," "BAD"... WHAT'S EITHER OF THEM GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
YOU SEE IT HAPPEN ALL THE TIME.
IF YOU'RE TOO STUPID TO GRAB WHAT'S YOURS, IT NEVER WAS.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ESPECIALLY KIND OR LOOKED AFTER MY FRIENDS MUCH. IN FACT, I'VE BEEN A REAL SHIT, SOMETIMES.
AND STILL I HAVE THE BEST OF EVERYTHING.
WHY NOT BRING HIM DOWN TO MY LEVEL?!
WHY NOT TRY TO BRING DOWN SOMEONE QUOTE-UNQUOTE BETTER THAN ME?
PEOPLE FIND THEIR OWN LEVEL. YOU KNOW? I LIVE MY LIFE, YOU LIVE YOURS
THE RICH GET RICHER, THE POOR GET SCREWED OVER. SAME AS ALWAYS
YOU SHOULDN'T CARE ABOUT ME, AND I SHOULDN'T CARE ABOUT YOU?
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

WE BOTH SLEPT IN OUR ROOM, SAME AS NORMAL, DIDN'T WE?
SURE IS!
WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
IT'S TOTALLY NOTHING I SWEAR!
OH, MAN, IF YOU KNEW HOW STUPID
REALLY??
THEY FIGURE IT MUST'VE HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... AND ME, I'M WONDERING IF...
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT HAD TO DO WITH YOU WRITING BOTH THE CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, BUT
I WAS WORRIED, WAS ALL.
I'VE ALREADY LIED SO MUCH...
WHY'D I CONFESS TO HIM, OF ALL PEOPLE?!
HE NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD TO KNOW.
WHY'D I TELL THE TRUTH?
WHY'D I DO IT?

THUNK
WHO?
ME AND TEZUKA?
THE WHOLE SCHOOL'S SAYING YOU GUYS MUST'VE FOUGHT
WELL, YEAH...

TEZUKA!
GULP
WILL YOU MEET ME IN THE LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL?
... SURE.
AND?
I THOUGHT ALL NIGHT... AND
I.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS THE BEST I COULD THINK OF.
KA-POW!
LULA-SLAM!
GASP!
NICE ONE ...
REALLY. NOT BAD.
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT UP.

WHY IS HE...
DUDE! FIGHT IN THE LIBRARY!!
A REAL FIGHT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU *PLAN* IS IT, SHINOBU?
HE...
IS IT?
THERE, SEE? WE'VE GOT AN AUDIENCE.
HAD ENOUGH NOW, OR WHAT?
HOW MANY SKELETONS HAVE YOU *GOT* IN THAT CLOSET OF YOURS?!
THEY *ARE*?!
IT'S TEZUKA AND IKEDA! THEY'RE--
LIBRARY STAFF, PROTECT THE RARE BOOKS!
THE REST OF YOU, GET OUT! GO ON, GO!!

HEY, YOU STAND TO LOSE MORE HERE THAN I DO.
TUG
IT HAD TO BE THE LIBRARY. IF I'D SAID THE GYM, YOU'D'VE KNOWN WHAT WAS UP.
IT SURE IS.
...YOU WOULD HAVE, ALREADY.
IF YOU'D WANTED TO...
AND DON'T FORGET WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT IF YOU DO SOMETHING STUPID.
YOU *GIVE* A SHIT WHAT PEOPLE THINK, WHEREAS I DON'T.
YOU FORGET WHERE YOU AR—
CUT IT OUT, YOU GUYS!
WHAT?!
BACK OFF!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT MUCH OF ANYTHING...
REALLY ?!
AND YOU REALLY, TRULY BELIEVE THAT?
GRR
IF SO, WHY'D YOU TELL ME?
WHY BRING IN A WITNESS TO WHAT YOU WERE DOING?!
YOU ALREADY KNOW!
BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO!
OKAY ...
.. NOW WE'RE GETTING SOME-WHERE
YOU DIDN'T "WANT" ME TO KNOW, YOU "NEEDED" ME TO!
'CAUSE WHO ARE YOU WITHOUT YOUR PRECIOUS "MR. I DON'T GIVE A SHIT" IMAGE?!
BEING A BAD GUY'S ITS OWN REWARD. WHAT ARE YOU WITHOUT IT?!

IF I'M GOING DOWN, SO ARE YOU.
SO MUCH FOR THE "POPULAR" TEZUKA SHINOBU!
... IT IS ?!
THWUP!
SO THAT'S IT, HUH?
AND WHAT IF..
JUDO HIP-THROW. COOL! A little shopping, too!
"YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE, I LIVE MINE."
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? WHAT PART OF "I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK" DON'T YOU GET?!
IN JUNIOR HIGH, YES!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE IN THE KENDO CLUB?!
BEFORE THAT, I HAD NINE YEARS OF JUDO LESSONS-- SINCE I WAS SIX!

MUSIC TO MY EARS, PAL..
WHY, YOU NO-GOOD ...
TCH ...
STAND
BAS-TARD!!
DON'T YOU?!
THINK MITSURU WILL...
WHADDYA THINK?
WHO YOU THINK'S CONTROLLING THE MATCH?!
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT! A NOTHING, A NOBODY, SOMEONE NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER—
SHUT UP!!
AH?!
WHOA!
NAH, IT'S A SLEEPER-HOLD!!
HE'LL KILL HIM!
C...
NO, CAN'T ...
THIS IS NO DOJO!!
IDIOT!
HFF HFF HFF
KU
PWAH

OOOF
..
OH, NO
..
I DIDN'T
...
BAM!
?!
"HAPPY-GO-LUCKY," MY ASS.
HE HAD IT PLANNED FROM THE START!
HE HAD ME COMPLETELY.
I NEVER EVEN ...
I ...

BAM!
HE DOWN ?!
DOWN AND OUT, DUDE!
.....
.....
...SO, WE'RE THINKING ...
.....
...WAIT TILL TEZUKA WAKES UP, GET HIS SIDE OF IT.
...THERE'S BOUND TO BE SOME KIND OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION...

"ENOUGH, ALREADY."
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED HIM TO HEAR. WHY CHOOSE SUCH UNHAPPINESS IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO?
SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
THINK YOU TWO CAN ROOM TOGETHER ANOTHER THREE YEARS WITHOUT KILLING EACH OTHER?
I CAN IF HE CAN
DAMN RIGHT I CAN
THE REAL QUESTION IS CAN HE?
NO WAY DO I LET THE LIKES OF YOU CHASE ME OFF.
SOMEHOW, SOME WAY ..
I hadn't counted on those judo lessons enough.
Besides, what else could I have been at?
Talking would never have gotten through to him.
THIS TIME, THOUGH, LOSING WASN'T AN OPTION
THIS TIME ...
THE "ORPHAN OF KORYU TEMPLE" WASN'T UNKNOWN IN MY OLD NEIGHBORHOOD
GET PICKED ON ENOUGH, SOONER OR LATER YOU LEARN HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
SOME, YEAH. NO BIG DEAL.
Just a punk or loser I guess.
AM I WRONG — IN THINKING YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?
NO MATTER HOW "UNFAIR" LIFE MAY BE, IT'S NOT NEAR AS BAD AS HE SEEMS TO THINK.
AND SO ...
NOBODY HATES SHINOBU MORE THAN SHINOBU HIMSELF.
ONLY A REAL BEATING, IN FRONT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE, WAS GONNA GET THROUGH
HE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT SOMETIMES BAD GUYS DO LOSE .
AND THAT GOOD GUYS, "STUPID" OR NOT, CAN STILL BE HAPPY.

THE REASON FOR THE FIGHT REMAINED ONE OF THE DORM'S GREAT MYSTERIES. THAT IKEDA AND TEZUKA WEREN'T TALKING ONLY MADE IT WORSE...

TIME WENT ON, AS IT TENDS TO DO ...

LA LA LA LAH!♪

HEY, GUYS!

CAN I WATCH YOUR TV? I CAN? GREAT!

...AND, TODAY, IT'S AS THOUGH IT NEVER HAPPENED.

BUY YOUR OWN TV, YOU GUYS!

AW, WHADDA YOU CARE? IT'S JUST A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM AN OLD STUDENT ANYWAY.

WHERE *IS* SHINOBU-SEMPAI?

...I WILL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS.

WHEN THE RESULTS CAME BACK FOR THIS YEAR'S STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS, IT WAS HOMEROOM 2-E'S HAKABAYASHI MAKOTO FOR PRESIDENT, AND I-A'S TEZUKA SHINOBU FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

COOL.

LEFT-HAND SHAKE?

TOGETHER, THEY GARNERED OVER *HALF* OF ALL TOTAL VOTES.

HAVING BEEN UNDER A THREE-DAY SUSPENSION DURING THE SPEECH-MAKING PART OF THE ELECTIONS, TEZUKA SHINOBU WAS NOT, OF COURSE, ABLE TO MAKE AN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.

I DON'T KNOW, WOULD YOU?

WOULD I DO THAT?

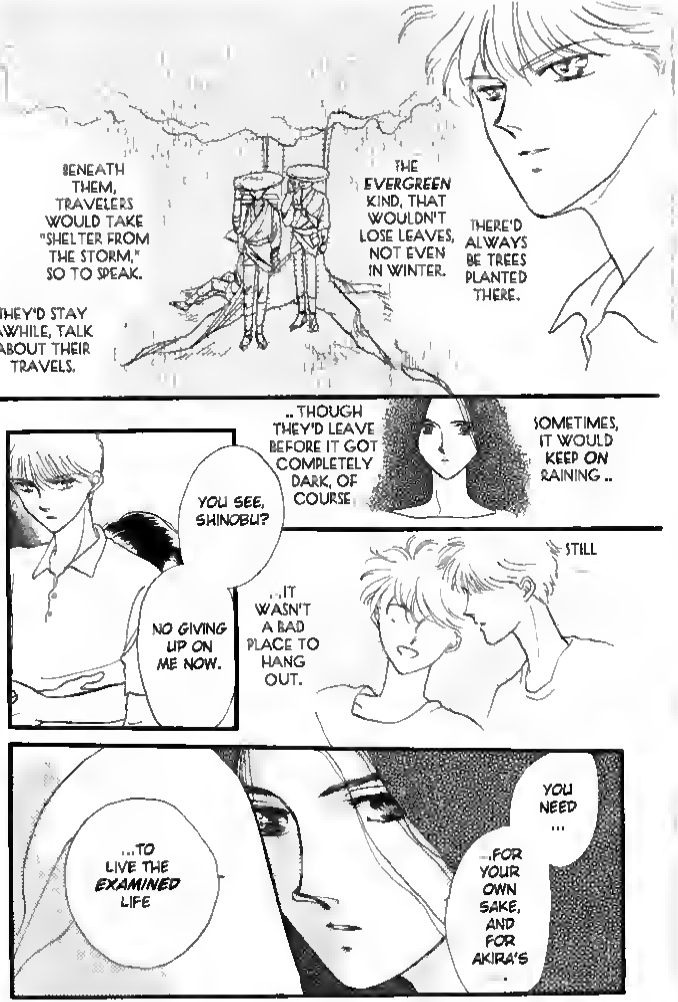
TEZUKA MUST'VE COACHED HIM, MAN

GEH!

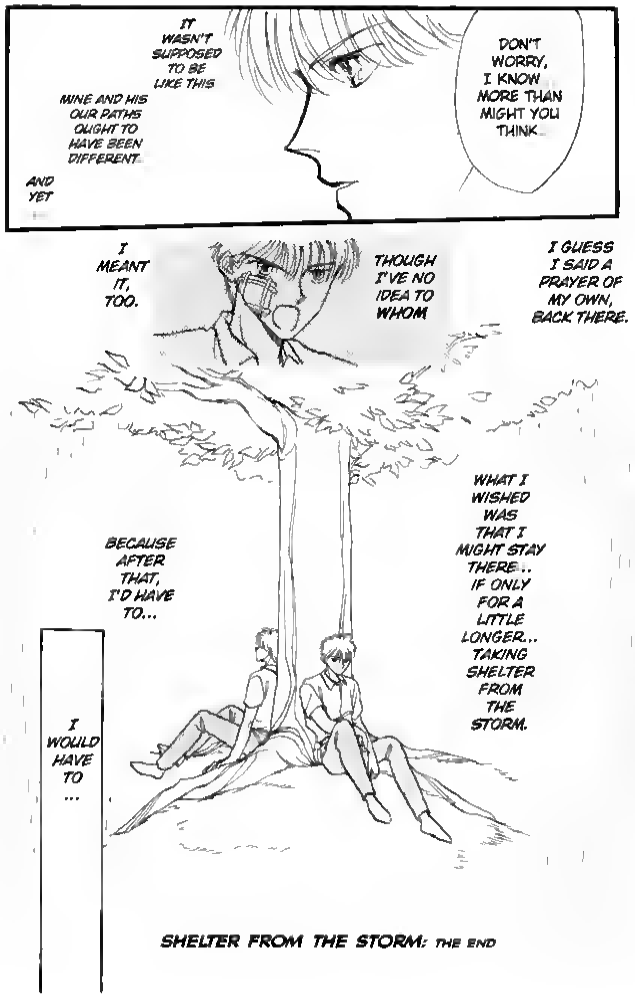
THE *HELL*—?! IKEDA, YOU'RE IN 92ND PLACE!

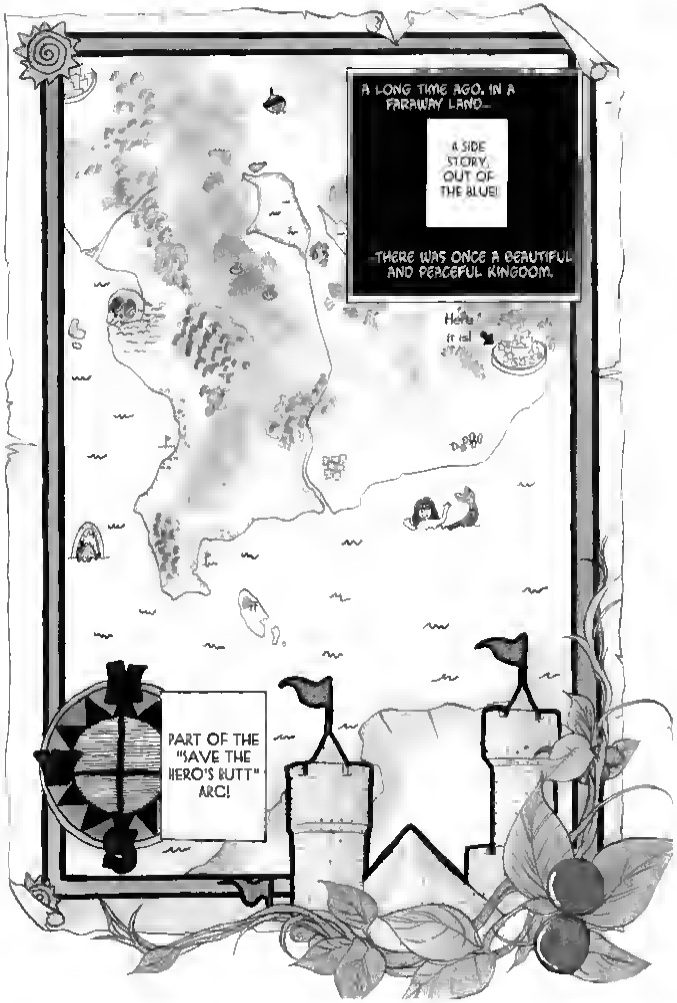
No.1

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WEREN'T COMING ANYMORE
THE TRUTH IS THAT DAY ..
I HOPE IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
NOT AT ALL
OR MAYBE ...
...IT DID SEEM THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BY MUCH.
..YOU LIKE DORM LIFE MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD.
IN THE FEUDAL DAYS THEY USED TO PUT UP THESE "ICHI-RI" MARKERS.
YOU'VE HEARD OF "ICHI-RI HILLS," RIGHT?
NORIKO


BENEATH THEM, TRAVELERS WOULD TAKE "SHELTER FROM THE STORM," SO TO SPEAK.
THEY'D STAY AWHILE, TALK ABOUT THEIR TRAVELS.
THE EVERGREEN KIND, THAT WOULDN'T LOSE LEAVES, NOT EVEN IN WINTER.
THERE'D ALWAYS BE TREES PLANTED THERE.
SOMETIMES, IT WOULD KEEP ON RAINING ..
.. THOUGH THEY'D LEAVE BEFORE IT GOT COMPLETELY DARK, OF COURSE
YOU SEE, SHINOBU?
NO GIVING UP ON ME NOW.
..IT WASN'T A BAD PLACE TO HANG OUT.
STILL
...TO LIVE THE EXAMINED LIFE
YOU NEED ...
...FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, AND FOR AKIRA'S .

HERE IS DEVILWOOD
(PART ONE)


IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS
MINE AND HIS OUR PATHS OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.
AND YET
DON'T WORRY, I KNOW MORE THAN MIGHT YOU THINK...
I MEANT IT, TOO.
THOUGH I'VE NO IDEA TO WHOM
I GUESS I SAID A PRAYER OF MY OWN, BACK THERE.
BECAUSE AFTER THAT, I'D HAVE TO...
I WOULD HAVE TO ...
WHAT I WISHED WAS THAT I MIGHT STAY THERE... IF ONLY FOR A LITTLE LONGER... TAKING SHELTER FROM THE STORM.
SHELTER FROM THE STORM: THE END


A LONG TIME AGO, IN A FARAWAY LAND...
A SIDE STORY, OUT OF THE BLUE!
...THERE WAS ONCE A BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL KINGDOM.
Here it is!
PART OF THE "SAVE THE HERO'S BUTT" ARC!

PRINCE
ONE HAPPY YEAR, A PRINCE WAS BORN UNTO THE KING AND QUEEN OF A CERTAIN LAND
BOM
BOM
BOM
TOOT-
TOOTIE-
TOOT!
YAAZ
HIS BIRTH WAS CELEBRATED FROM ONE END OF THE KINGDOM TO ANOTHER...
NATURALLY, THE KING AND QUEEN--NOT TO MENTION CHELSEA, THE PRINCE'S ELDER SISTER--WERE OVERJOYED, AS INDEED WAS EVERYONE IN THE CASTLE
...WITH ONE EXCEPTION...
PRINCE, SCHMINCE! I'M SICK OF IT, ALREADY.
...THE SECOND-IN-LINE PRINCESS, SELFISH PRINCESS MILKY!

HERE IS DEVILWOOD
(PART ONE)

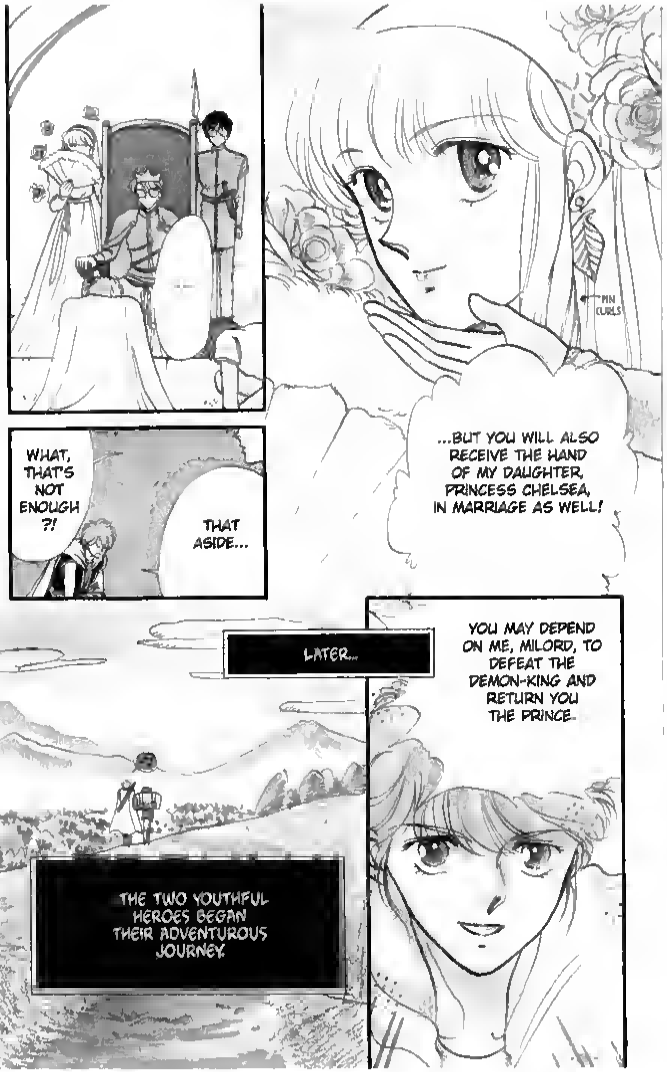
Greetings.
I've taken pity on the princess and have removed the prince from the premises at her request
Yrs v truly
Demon-King Clorets
THE DEMON-KING!!
DAH! DAH! DAH!!
THOUGH IT HAD LONG BEEN SAID THAT THE FEARSOME DEMON-KING LIVED IN THE FOREST ON THE FAR WESTERN EDGE OF THE KINGDOM, TO DATE NO ONE HAD EVER ACTUALLY SEEN HIM.
BUT YOUR MAJESTY!
ABSURD!
TMP
THIS WAS FOUND IN THE BABE'S CRADLE ..
IT ... IT CAN'T BE!

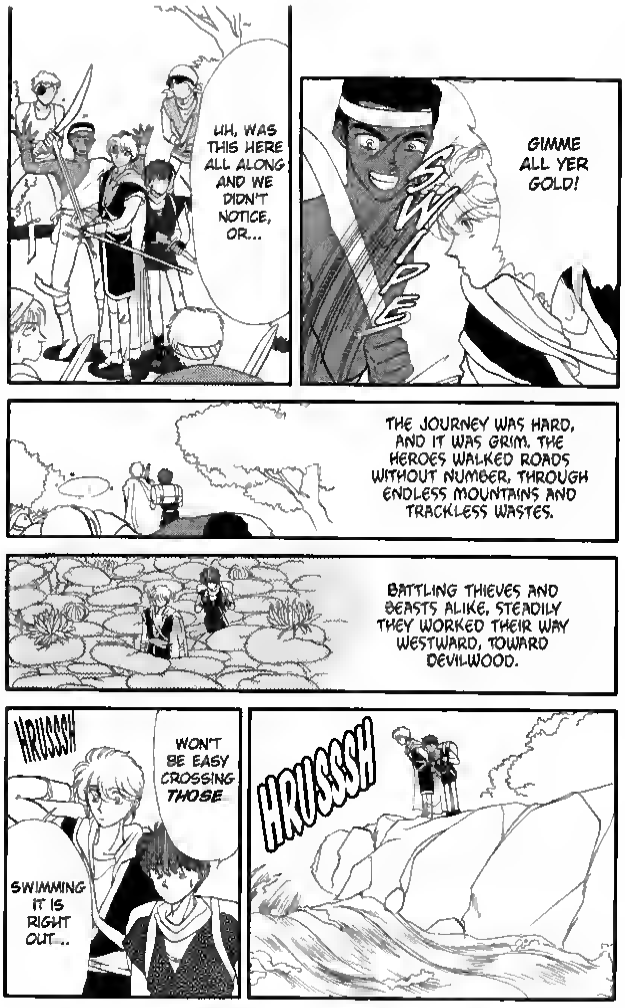
I WISH HE'D JUST TURN INTO A DUMPLING AND GET EATEN BY A BIG SCARY DEMON!
SO HE'S WARM TO THE TOUCH AND SOFT AND SQUISHY LIKE FRESH-BAKED BREAD, BIG DEAL! STUPID DUMPLING-BABY.
I'VE GOT IT ALL OVER THAT LOSER
I WISH HE... I WISH HE WOULD...
HMMP HMM
NO SOONER WAS IT SAID...!
HRASSH...
NO-O-O-O-O
THE PRINCE! THE PRINCE...!!
Your wish is my command!
EH?
NO SOONER DID HIS HIGHNESS TURN INTO A ROUND AND TOASTY LITTLE SNACK CAKE...
..THAN A GIANT BLACK BIRD APPEARED, AND CARRIED HIM OFF INTO THE DISTANCE!

NOT THE LEMON-HERB WHO KO'D THE DOME MOUNTAIN GIANT IN 5 MINS., 54 SECS THAT LEMON-HERB?!
LEMON-HERB?!
WHOA!
WAN-DERING SWORDS-MAN ...
LEMON-HERB.
A YOUNG STALWART WHOSE NAME WAS KNOWN ACROSS THE LAND, LEMON-HERB WAS ENTRUSTED BY THE KING WITH THE QUEST AND EVEN SAW TO ALL THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS PERSONALLY.
SHOULD YOU BE SUCCESSFUL, NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE REWARDED WITH RICHES...
PUT HIM TO WHATEVER USE YOU LIKE, IF IT WILL BRING BACK THE PRINCE EVEN A MOMENT SOONER.
IT SO TURNS OUT THAT HE'S ONE OF MY MINIONS...
I AM TINO.

THE KING QUICKLY HAD FLIERS PRINTED UP REQUESTING THAT SOMEONE DEFEAT THE DEMON-KING AND BRING BACK THE PRINCE.
EXTRA! EXTRA!
URGENT
THE QUEEN WAS SO SADDENED BY THIS, SHE TOOK TO HER BED.
EVERYONE WAS SO FEARFUL OF THE DEMON-KING, HOWEVER, THAT NOT ONE PERSON CAME FORTH.
YOU! WHO ARE YOU?!
IS THAT HIM OVER THERE...?
JUST THEN...
YOUR MAJESTY!
THERE'S WHAT ?!
THERE'S A GUY OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE RIGHT NOW WHO SAYS HE'LL TAKE ON THE DEMON-KING!
GWUMP

SIIIGH
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, BUT...
WE HAVEN'T GONE FIVE KILOMETERS YET!
DON'T YOU "SIGH" ON ME!
I SAID, HEY!
HEY!
SIIIGH
HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT HIM?! NO ONE'S EVER COME BACK ALIVE!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THERE'S ONLY TWO OF US?
...WE'RE UP AGAINST THE DEMON-KING!
AS IN A "KING"? WHO'S A "DEMON"?!

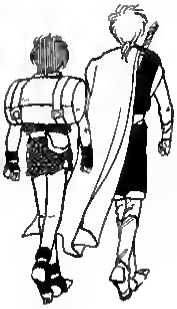

WHAT, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH?!
THAT ASIDE...
...BUT YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER, PRINCESS CHELSEA, IN MARRIAGE AS WELL!
MIN CURLS
LATER...
YOU MAY DEPEND ON ME, MILORD, TO DEFEAT THE DEMON-KING AND RETURN YOU THE PRINCE.
THE TWO YOUTHFUL HEROES BEGAN THEIR ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY.

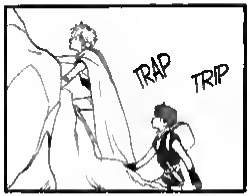

UH, WAS THIS HERE ALL ALONG AND WE DIDN'T NOTICE, OR...
GIMME ALL YER GOLD!
THE JOURNEY WAS HARD, AND IT WAS GRIM. THE HEROES WALKED ROADS WITHOUT NUMBER, THROUGH ENDLESS MOUNTAINS AND TRACKLESS WASTES.
BATTLING THIEVES AND BEASTS ALIKE, STEADILY THEY WORKED THEIR WAY WESTWARD, TOWARD DEVILWOOD.
HRUSSSH
WON'T BE EASY CROSSING THOSE
SWIMMING IT IS RIGHT OUT...
HRUSSSH

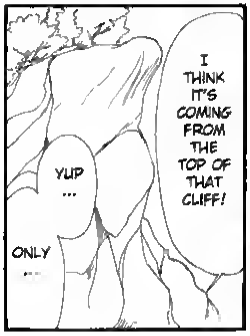
WELL, I..
THAT IS TO SAY, I...
WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
EVEN SO, YOU VOLUN-TEERED, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
I'D SUGGEST WE GET A MAP TO HELP US THROUGH THIS, BUT...
...THERE IS NO MAP!!
YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE CHIVALRY OF THE MOMENT, MORE LIKE
UH-HUH
THE QUEEN WAS SO UPSET, I JUST COULDN'T..
BIG WHOOP.
LOOK, IF YOU CAN PULL THIS OFF, YOU'LL BE THE QUEEN'S NEW SON-IN-LAW!
THE MORE TREASURE FOR YOU THAT WAY!
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE THE ONLY ONE TO STEP FORWARD!
TRY AND LOOK LIVELY, HUH?
WELL, HERE WE ARE OUT QUESTING ALREADY, SO NO POINT IN COMPLAINING NOW.

IF YOU'LL BE SO GOOD AS TO LOAN A BOAT...
...I'LL BE HAPPY TO SLAY THE MONSTER FOR YOU.
THE CURRENT IS SO FAST THAT, IF YOU FALL IN, YOU CAN'T BE SAVED.
TEN HAVE DIED THAT WAY ALREADY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
MOUMOU...?
GUESS I SHOULD GO GET THE BOAT READY, HUH?
THIS WAY.
HELLO, DEAR!
WE'VE NO CHOICE.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS A MI--
HOLD ONTO YOUR PANTIES!
ZA-SSH!
THE LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, THOUGH... MAN, OH MAN.
ME, I COULDN'T GIVE TWO GOOD YOU-KNOW-WHATS ABOUT IT..

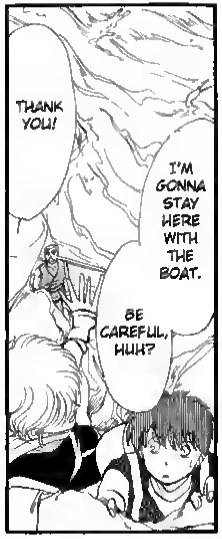
WHAT DO YOU KNOW .. A FERRY.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED; WE MUST TRY ANOTHER WA—
DWAH ?
I WISH THEY WERE RUNNING, BELIEVE ME!
WHY AREN'T THERE?
BUT THERE HAVE TO BE ...!
GOSH, I'M SORRY!
NO FERRIES RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?!
SOME KIND OF MONSTER HAS JUST STARTED LIVING THERE.
IT SINGS THIS WEIRD LITTLE SONG, AND ANY SHIP THAT GOES TOO CLOSE SINKS.
OUR FERRIES DOCK ON THE FAR SIDE OF IT.
SEE THAT LITTLE ISLAND OVER THERE?



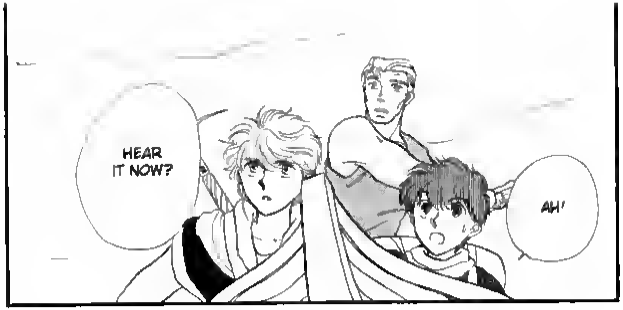

TRIP
TRIP

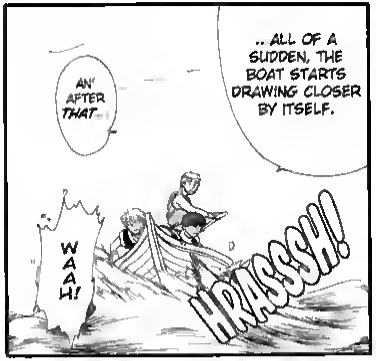

I THINK IT'S COMING FROM THE TOP OF THAT CLIFF!
YUP ...
ONLY ...

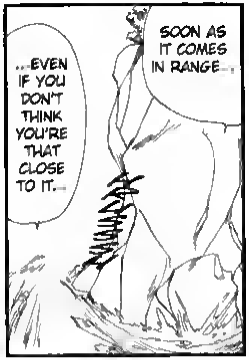
"HELP ME"?!

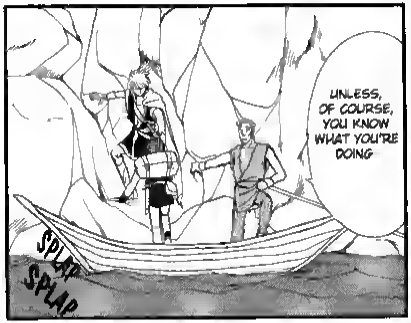

THANK YOU!
I'M GONNA STAY HERE WITH THE BOAT.
BE CAREFUL, HUH?

..THAT ...IS NO SONG
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHAT'S IT SAYING..?

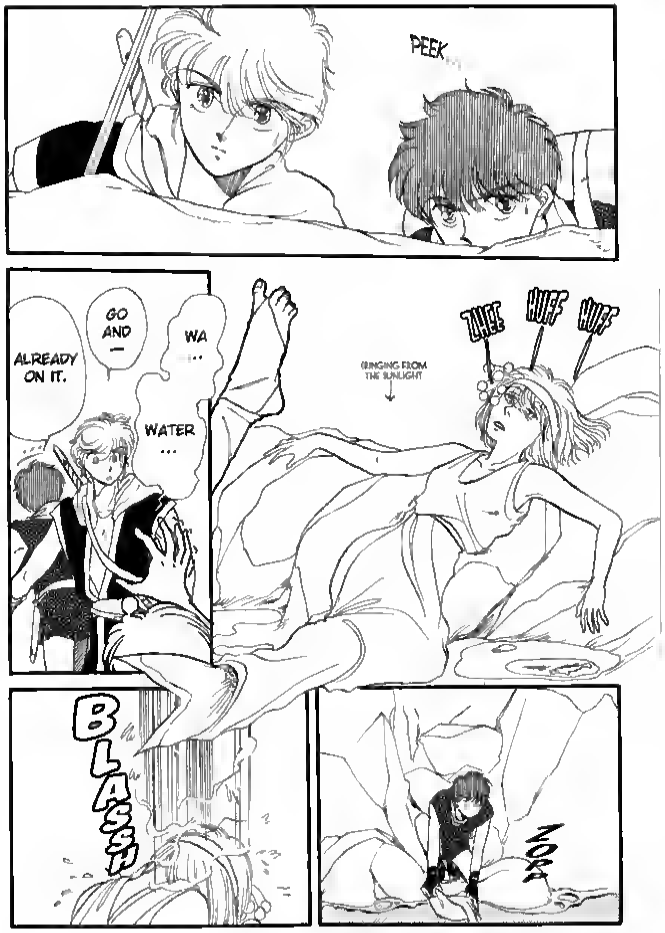

HEAR IT NOW?
AH!


.. ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE BOAT STARTS DRAWING CLOSER BY ITSELF.
AN' AFTER THAT...
WAAH!
HRASSSH!

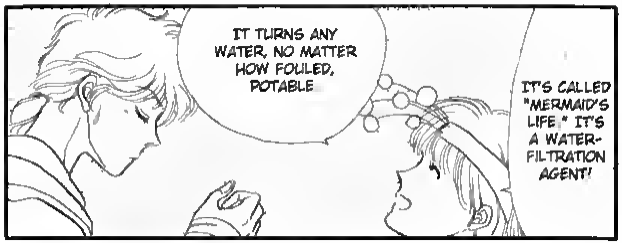

SOON AS IT COMES IN RANGE...
...EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE THAT CLOSE TO IT...

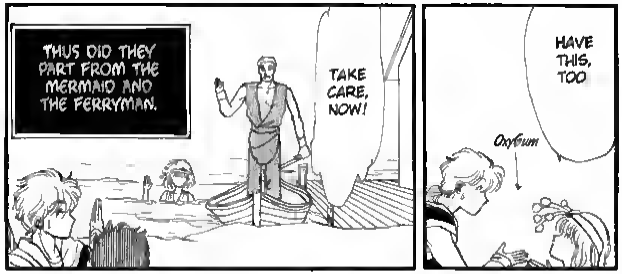

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING
SPLAP SPLAP

...YOU HIT THAT NASTY ROCK UP THERE AND DOWN YOU GO

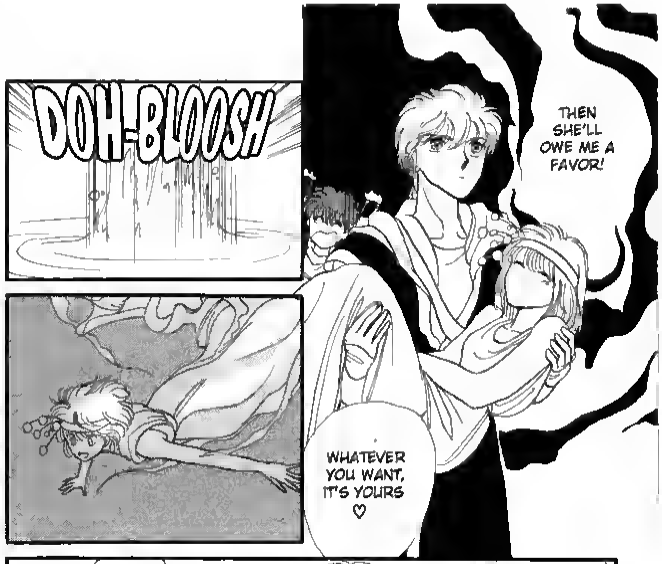

PEEK
ALREADY ON IT.
GO AND —
WA ...
WATER ...
(RINGING FROM THE SUNLIGHT)
TINKLE
CHIME
CHIME
BLASH
ZOOM

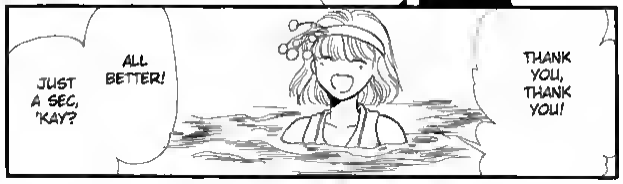
I AM A MERMAID WHO LIVES IN THESE WATERS.
ONE ESPECIALLY STORMY NIGHT...
THANK YOU, KIND SIRS!
MUCH MORE OF THAT, AND I'D HAVE DIED.
I'VE HAD TO MAKE DO WITH PUDDLED RAINWATER ALONE
FOR NO MATTER HOW I CRIED NONE WOULD COME TO AID ME
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A TORNADO AND STRANDED ON THESE STONY SHORES
WHAT'LL WE DO? SHE'S NICE NOW, BUT WHAT IF SHE CHANGES ONCE SHE'S BETTER?
TRUE ENOUGH— AND YET, IN THIS INSTANCE ..
PLEASE, PLEASE, RETURN ME TO THE SEA

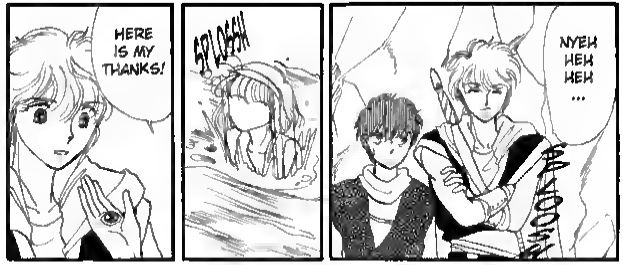

IT TURNS ANY WATER, NO MATTER HOW FOULED, POTABLE.
IT'S CALLED "MERMAID'S LIFE." IT'S A WATER-FILTRATION AGENT!

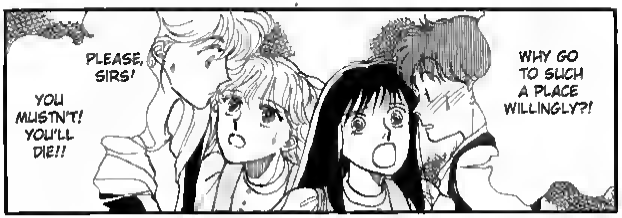

THUS DID THEY PART FROM THE MERMAID AND THE FERRYMAN.
TAKE CARE, NOW!
HAVE THIS, TOO
OxyGum

OOH, QUALITY PELT.
HOW MUCH FOR THIS?
HOW'S 1000 SOUND?
SOUNDS CHEAP. THAT'S HOW
THUS DID THEY JOURNEY
BASHING BEASTIES!
Dush!
I'LL JUST PUT THIS AWAY FOR SAFE-KEEPING.
THWARTING THIEVES!


DOH-BLOOSH
THEN SHE'LL OWE ME A FAVOR!
WHATEVER YOU WANT, IT'S YOURS ♡


JUST A SEC, 'KAY?
ALL BETTER!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!


HERE IS MY THANKS!
SPLOSH!
NYEH HEH HEH ...
BA-LOOSH!

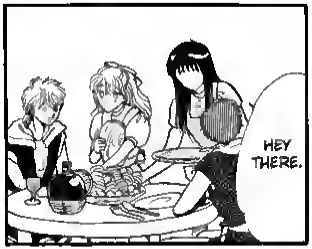

PLEASE, SIRS!
YOU MUSTN'T! YOU'LL DIE!!
WHY GO TO SUCH A PLACE WILLINGLY?!

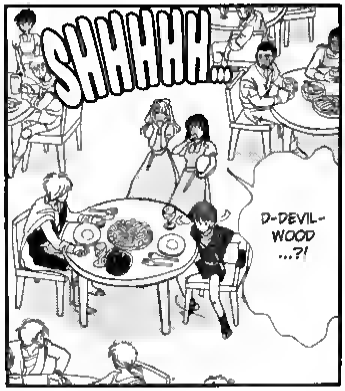
ALL THE TREES IN THERE ARE ENCHANTED, THOUGH, SO IT'S LIKE A MAZE
NO ONE'S EVER COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE.
DEVIL-WOOD'S NOT FAR OFF.
WAAAH!
PLEEEEEASE DON'T GO ~~~!

AND YET THE TWO STRUGGLED ON, UNTIL AT LAST THEY REACHED THE TOWN CLOSEST TO DEVIL-WOOD.

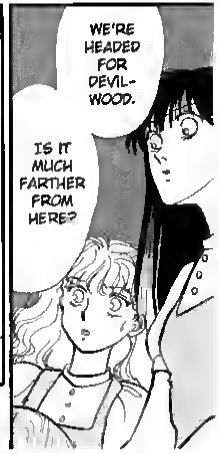
SURE DO! HOW'S SECOND-FLOOR SOUND?
YO, INNKEEP! VITTLES AND WHISKY, AND KEEP 'EM COMIN'!
NOT LISTENING! LA-LA-LAH!!
GOT ANY ROOMS OPEN?

GIRLS ?
ONE QUICK QUESTION ...
YES?? WHAT IS IT??


HEY THERE.


SHHHHH...
D-DEVIL-WOOD ...?!

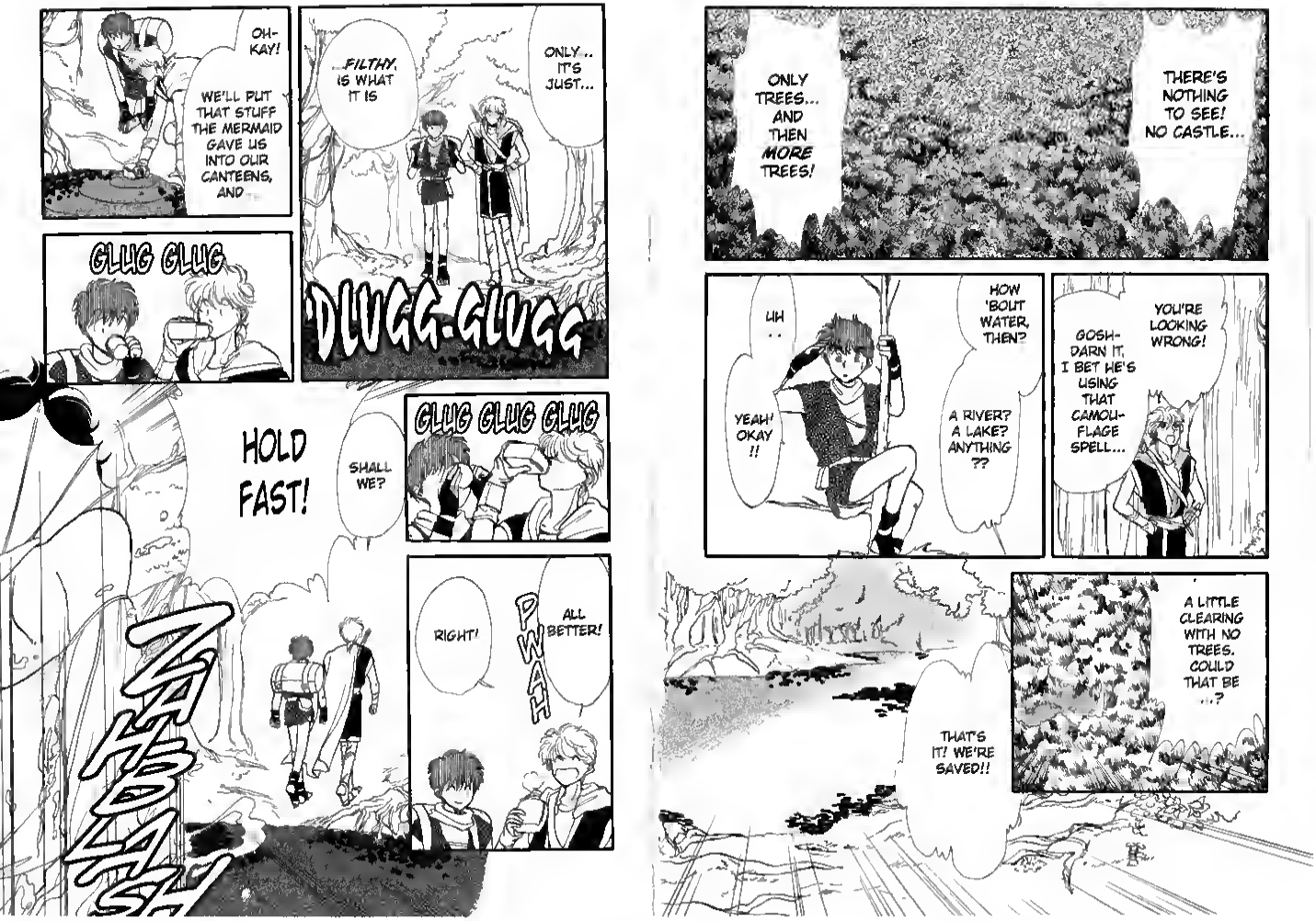
KUH-KLANG


WE'RE HEADED FOR DEVIL-WOOD.
IS IT MUCH FARTHER FROM HERE?

YOU SCARED?
HECK, NO! AFTER ALL THIS WAY?!
YOU CAN STAY BEHIND, IF YOU WANT
HEY, HERB.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GO ON THIS QUEST?
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY.
IF I STAYED, I DOUBT I COULD EVEN MAKE A LIVING.
MY COUNTRY'S NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL CASH-RICH.
ME AN' HIM WERE PALS AS KIDS
DWAH ?!
THIS DEMON-KING CLORETS?
HIS REAL NAME'S "COOL MINT."
THE TRUTH IS...
...THE THING WITH THE PRINCE WAS PURE LUCK.
KILLED OUR SENSEI, TOO.
ONE DAY, THOUGH, A BLACK SORCERER SHOWED UP AND BURNED THE PLACE DOWN.
WE GREW UP IN THE SAME VILLAGE, EVEN BECAME APPRENTICES TO THE SAME SORCERER.
ME, I CHOSE THE PATH OF THE SWORD, AND WENT AFTER 'EM.
COOL WANTED TO LEARN WHAT HE COULD TEACH, SO HE BECAME HIS APPRENTICE. PRETTY SOON AFTER THAT, HE DISAPPEARED.

I'LL HAVE TO FINISH THE OTHER ONE OFF MYSELF.
EVENTUALLY, WORD GOT BACK THAT THE SORCERER HAD DIED.
STAY FROSTY, THOUGH, AND THE PATH'LL OPEN RIGHT UP.
PFFT, PUH-LEEZE! A MAZE IS ONLY TOUGH IF YOU TRY AND RUSH IT.
BLESS THEIR HEARTS
Try not to die right?
Come back, okay?
WELL. THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

HAH!
WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?!
THIS MAZE IS JUST LIKE HIM. HOW TYPICAL!
TRUDGE TRUDGE TRUDGE
PFFT.
PLUS, WE'VE NO MORE WATER
Dammit. We're screwed.
I CAN'T GO ON...
DON'T BE STUPID!
I CAN'T, THOUGH! I CAN'T EVEN WALK.
UM, HERB...?
Well?? You see any-thing??
BETCHA WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE CLEAR TO THE EDGE OF THE FOREST!
HEY, TINO! CLIMB THIS TREE!
HUH?!

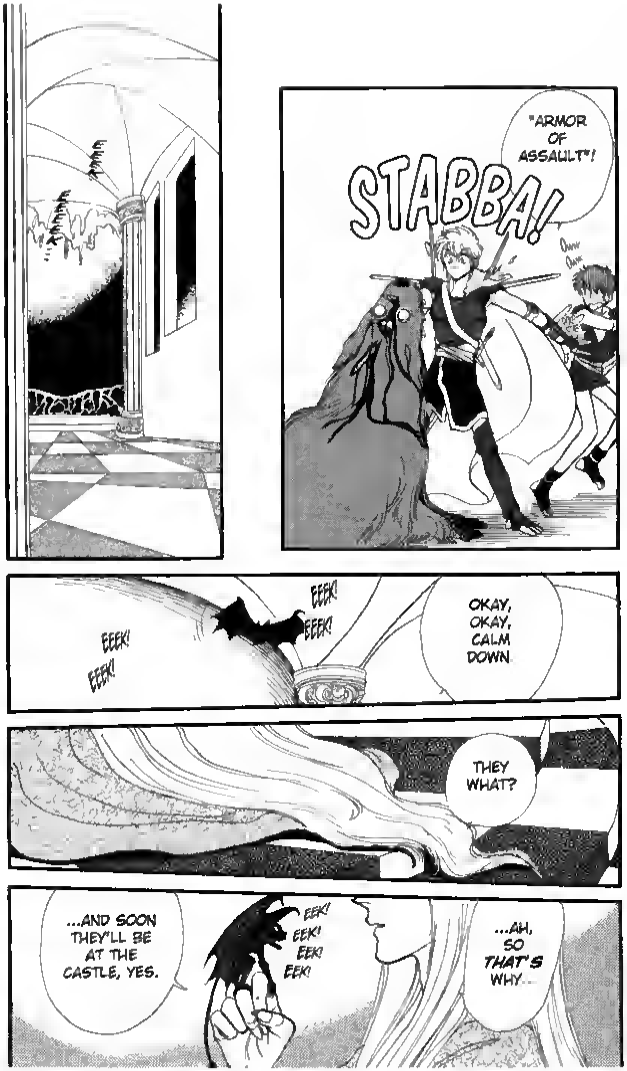

OH-KAY!
WE'LL PUT THAT STUFF THE MERMAID GAVE US INTO OUR CANTEENS, AND...
...FILTHY, IS WHAT IT IS
ONLY... IT'S JUST...
GLUG GLUG
DLUGG-GLUGG
GLUG GLUG GLUG
HOLD FAST!
SHALL WE?
ZA HOO AH SH
RIGHT!
PWAH
ALL BETTER!
ONLY TREES... AND THEN MORE TREES!
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE! NO CASTLE...
UH...
YEAH! OKAY!!
HOW 'BOUT WATER, THEN?
A RIVER? A LAKE? ANYTHING??
GOSH-DARN IT, I BET HE'S USING THAT CAMOU-FLAGE SPELL...
YOU'RE LOOKING WRONG!
A LITTLE CLEARING WITH NO TREES. COULD THAT BE ...?
THAT'S IT! WE'RE SAVED!!

ZAH!!
ZAH-BLAH BLASH
HUMAN OR NO, IT MATTERS NOT!
TEAR THEM LIMB FROM LIMB!
FLOP
FUMP
FUMP
W...
WAIT !!
.....
LAME.

WHO ARE YOU?!
WATCH IT, MISTER!
YET YOU TWO GULP IT DOWN AND WALK AROUND LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG??
ANY HUMAN WHO DRINKS THE WATER FROM THIS POND TURNS INTO A FISH .. WHICH WE SEASON LIBERALLY WITH SALT, GRILL, THEN EAT!
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE YOU?!
AS IN .. DEMON-KING "QUEEN"?
"QUEEN OF THE FOREST" ?
I'M QUEEN OF THIS FOREST.
INSO-LENCE !!
I GET IT— YOU'RE IN DRAG!

WEEP
WEEP
WEEP
Here. See this?
THAT'S NOT... "MERMAID'S LIFE"?!
HOW IS IT YOU'RE ALIVE?!
THIS WATER IS POISON!!
WE'LL GIVE YOU TREASURE IF YOU DO!
PLEASE REMOVE THAT FROM THE WATER IMMEDIATELY!
STOP... PLEASE DON'T! BRINGING THAT INTO HERE...
I-I CAN'T BREATHE!
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

IF WE MIGHT BE LEFT IN PEACE...
TO US, THE POISON OF THIS POOL IS LIFE ITSELF
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR THANKS...
IT SUITS YOU!
MAGIC, SIR!
THAT IS THE "SWORD OF DEFENSE," AND THAT IS THE "ARMOR OF ASSAULT"!
WHAT IS IT?
DON'T YOU MEAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND?
ONCE THE RULER OF THIS FOREST WAS OUR QUEEN, BUT CLORETS TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO BUILD A CASTLE...
HE DAMMED UP OUR LAKE, AND TURNED IT INTO THIS TINY POND.
DEFEAT CLORETS, WE BEG OF YOU!
HIS CASTLE IS A MERE HALF-DAY'S JOURNEY, STRAIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SETTING SUN


"ARMOR OF ASSAULT"!
STABBA!
EEEK!
EEEK!
EEEK!
EEEK!
OKAY, OKAY, CALM DOWN.
THEY WHAT?
...AND SOON THEY'LL BE AT THE CASTLE, YES.
EEK! EEK! EEK! EEK!
...AH, SO THAT'S WHY...

ZASH!
..LIKELY TO RUN INTO ALMOST ANYTHING...
IF WE DON'T REACH SOMETHING BY DUSK, I'M AFRAID WE'RE...
LET'S LOOK ANYWAY.
DO YOU SEE A CASTLE? I DON'T SEE ANY CASTLE.
I...
I SEE..!
BLIP
I CAN'T —!

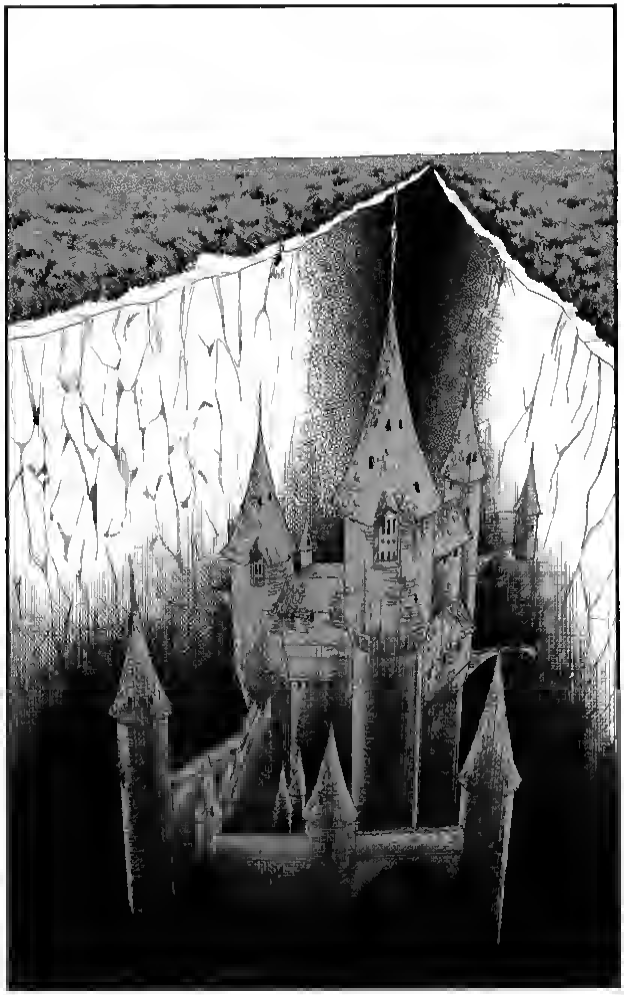
YOU'VE GOT A FREAKIN' BIRD HANGING FROM YOUR— DON'T CLAP YOUR HANDS!
THIS ONE, WE CAN EAT! NUMMIES.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
BRAVO... BRAVO! MUCH BETTER!
THAT WOULD BE THE "SWORD OF DEFENSE" PART.
I SWEAR, THE SWORD SEEMED TO MOVE IN COUNTER TO ENEMY BLOWS.
ALSO, BY DOING THIS ..
NO WAY.
THE CASTLE'S CLOSE!
I CAN FEEL IT IN THE AIR.
...ARE WE OKAY, D'YOU THINK? WE JUST KINDA TRUSTED THAT MONSTER'S DIRECTIONS.
Y' DON'T THINK HE'D GET US LOST ON PURPOSE, DO YOU?

It's just what I'd expect.
HOW VERY LIKE YOU, HERB.
DAAAAH!

WHAT THE ...?!
THAT... WOULD BE IT...

KRAK
THE MAZE IS GETTING TRICKIER, TOO...
...I CONFIRM THAT THE MONSTERS ARE MORE PLENTIFUL, WHICH IS ANOTHER CLUE
WHAT CAN IT BE?
HERB! THAT SOUND...
LOOK! THE CLEARING!
RUSTLE
LET'S GO SEE!
KIND OF LIKE... THE SOUND OF WAVES?

HOW THE HECK'D HE MANAGE TO ..?
NOW, WE GO ON. YOU KNOW THAT...
SO NOW WHAT?
LOOK FOR A WAY INTO THE CHASM-- A WAY TO CLIMB DOWN.
BUT NOW, THOUGH ?!
KYOOOOOOOOOO
IT'S GOTTA'
THE CASTLE'S GOTTA BE ANCHORED ONTO SOMETHING DOWN THERE...



HERE IS DEVILWOOD
(PART TWO)

JUST LIKE ...
...DES-CENDING INTO THE MOUTH OF HELL.
THEY CAN TOTALLY SEE US FROM THE CASTLE
AND, WHAD-DYA KNOW
...THE CASTLE HAS THIS REALLY EEEVIL FEEL TO IT.
NOTHING BUT DARK DOWN BELOW

HUH?
HEY-Y-Y, IT'S ..
SPFFF
...SAND!
THE ENTIRE VALLEY FLOOR, COVERED!
UM ...
SHIF
TINO?!
GAAAH!
KRISH!
...I KNOW WE'LL MAKE IT TO THE BOT—
IF WE COULD JUST GET PAST HERE...
SKUFF
HUH?
KRUMBLE
NOT MUCH TO GRAB ONTO.
NO...
WAAAAAAAH——!!
YEAH, IT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE—

ZASSH
LOP
!
ZUMP
UP THERE! HE'S ON THE TOP FLOOR!
NNGH!
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
KLANKLE
RUN FOR THE CASTLE!
CAN DO!
KEEEEK!
VOIMUU
...!
BAM!

KEENG!
BAM
M

ST
SWAD
BECAUSE HEIGHTS ARE BELOVED BY GREAT MEN AND FOOLS ALIKE!

WELL. IF IT ISN'T HERB.
DUN-DUN-DUN!
COOL!

DEVELOPMENT!
DO YOU MIND?! IT'S THE DENOUE-MENT!
NOT AS GOOD AS YOU!
AREN'T YOU LOOKING GOOD!
AH, SO THEY SENT YOU, DID THEY?
RELEASE THE KID-NAPPED PRINCE!
...DEMON-KING CLORETS! YOUR EVIL DEEDS ARE AT AN END!
CLORETS! I KNOW YOU DIDN'T TRANSFORM THAT PRINCE JUST SO YOU COULD EAT HIM...
WHAT'RE YOU REALLY AFTER?!
FEAR NOT.
THE PRINCE IS RIGHT HERE.
YOUR HIGHNESS !!

...AT WHICH POINT, ALL WILL BE MINE ..
...AND I SHALL CONTROL TIME ITSELF.
I PLAN TO SACRIFICE THEM ALL TO DARKNESS ON THE FIRST NEW MOON AFTER THE PRINCE'S BIRTH ..
TO REVERSE TIME'S FLOW, THE FOLLOWING RARITIES WERE NEEDED:
THE WHISKER OF A THUNDER-DRAGON
A SINGLE LOLWBARA BLOSSOM
A PURE-BLACK COWRY SHELL
AND A PRINCE BORN ON THE NIGHT OF A FULL MOON.

THAT NEW MOON IS TONIGHT.
SH-KEEK
EN
TINO! STOP!
LIKE WE'LL JUST LET YOU DO THAT!!
DASH!

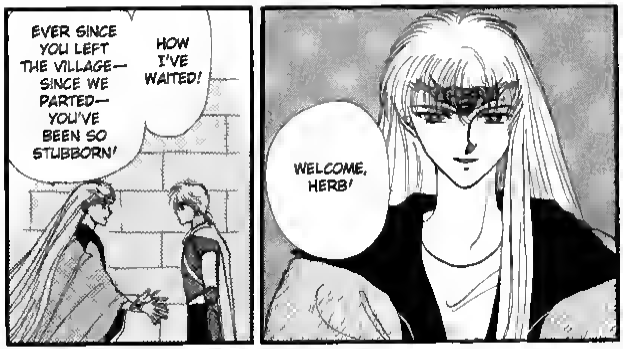
FOR A SPELL ?
...
FOR YEARS I'VE RESEARCHED ONE SPELL IN PARTICULAR... AND THAT'S WHY I NEED HIM
YES.
FOR ONE GREAT MAGICK.. TO CONTROL TIME.
WHAT DID YOU—
SHUUU...
IT'S SAND ...
SAND THAT FLOWS WITH TIME, FLOWING FOREVER AND EVER.
EVEN THIS CASTLE WILL BE BURIED IN IT, EVENTUALLY
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, RIGHT?
SHFF...

WAHAHAHAHA!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, HERB! YOU DID WELL TO COME THIS FAR, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK A MERE HUMAN CAN DEFEAT ME?
HA HA HA HA HA
Y-YOU'RE A MONSTER, I TELL YOU! A MONSTER!
FWAPPA
FWAPPA
SHNORT
HUH?
GREAT ...
JUST GREAT! NOW WHAT'LL I—
DWAH?!
SHNORT
SHNORT

AND DO YOU THINK I WILL "LET" YOU STOP ME, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?!
KEH! HEH HEH!
BOOM-BAH
BAZ
NGH!
GWO
UWAAAH!
!
GWO

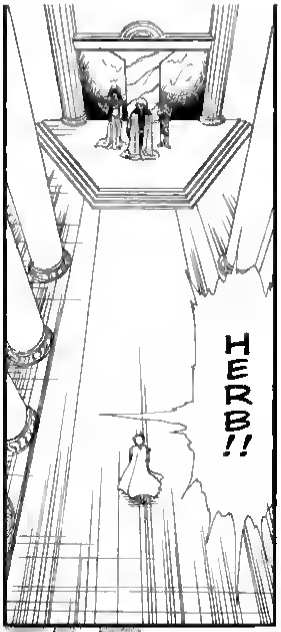
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE A CHILDHOOD FRIEND BECOME A MONSTER'S LUNCH
ADMIT DEFEAT, STAND AT MY SIDE, AND YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
CAST ASIDE YOUR SWORD AND COME!
HOLD THIS ?
FEH

AAAH!
KEEN!
GONG
SKWEEK
ENOUGH!
YOUR LIFE, HERB, I WILL SPARE.
.....

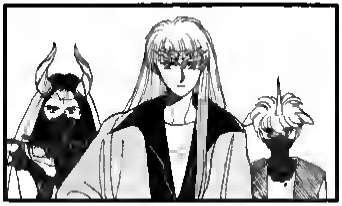

EVER SINCE YOU LEFT THE VILLAGE— SINCE WE PARTED— YOU'VE BEEN SO STUBBORN!
HOW I'VE WAITED!
WELCOME, HERB!

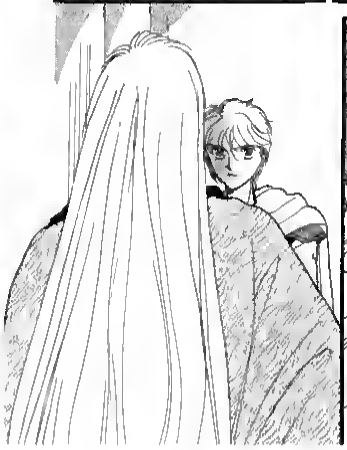
...HASN'T IT, COOL?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

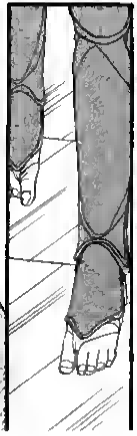
MY FRIEND


HERB!!

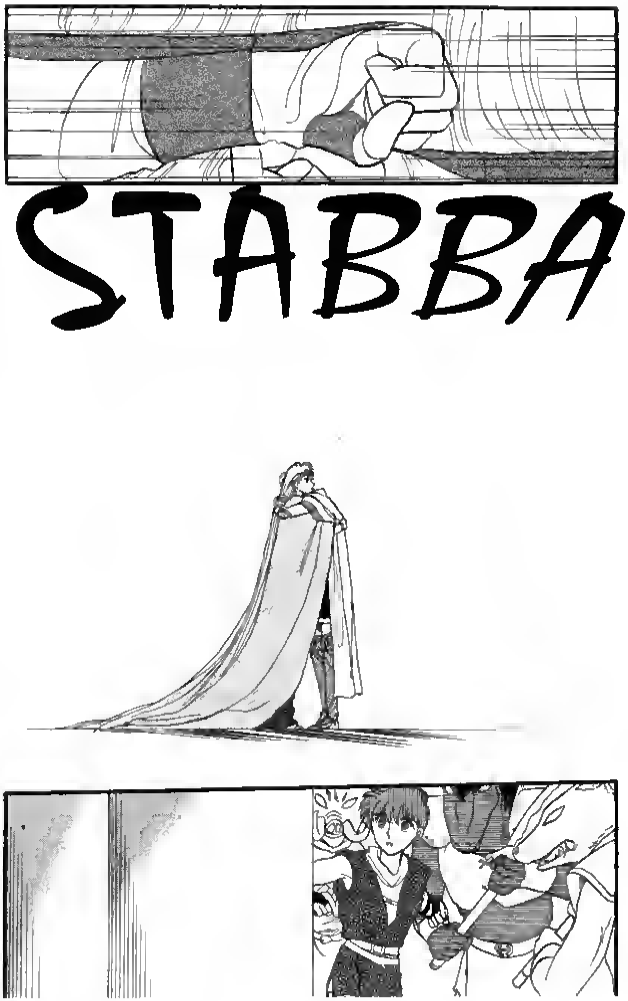
HERB ...?







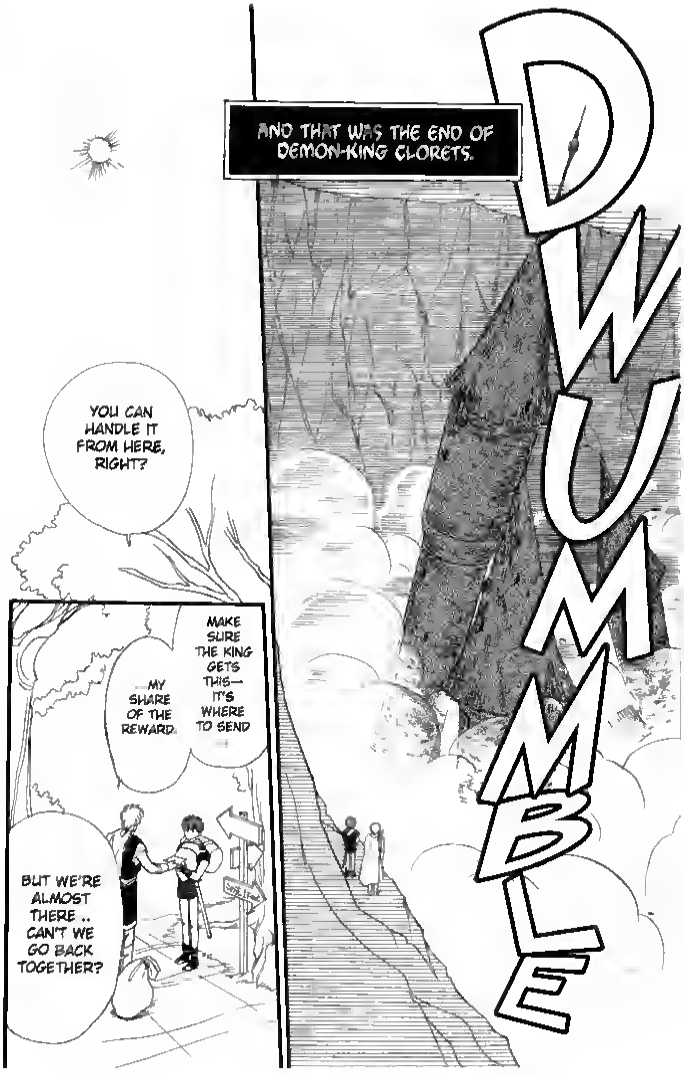
NE NE OO..
SHFF..


STABBA

KLUNK
KLUNK
KRUMBLE
HFF
HFF
KWAGA
YOW!
THE PRINCE IS..A PRINCE, AGAIN!
Wupsy-daisy
Goo!

HWOOOO
TINO, COME ON! LET'S GO!
IT WON'T HOLD MUCH LONGER!
HWOOP
WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCE?!
RRRM
RRUMBLE...

NORTH, FOR STARTERS
AFTER THAT, WHO KNOWS?
I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
WHERE WILL YOU GO FROM HERE?
NAH
I LIKE TO STAY ON THE MOVE.
I HAVE AT LEAST ANOTHER 11 CHILDHOOD FRIENDS IN NEED OF DEFEATING AT MY HAND..
IF THEY WENT TO THE "DARK SIDE," WHERE THE HECK DID YOU GO?!
MAN, DID THAT VILLAGE SUCK ...

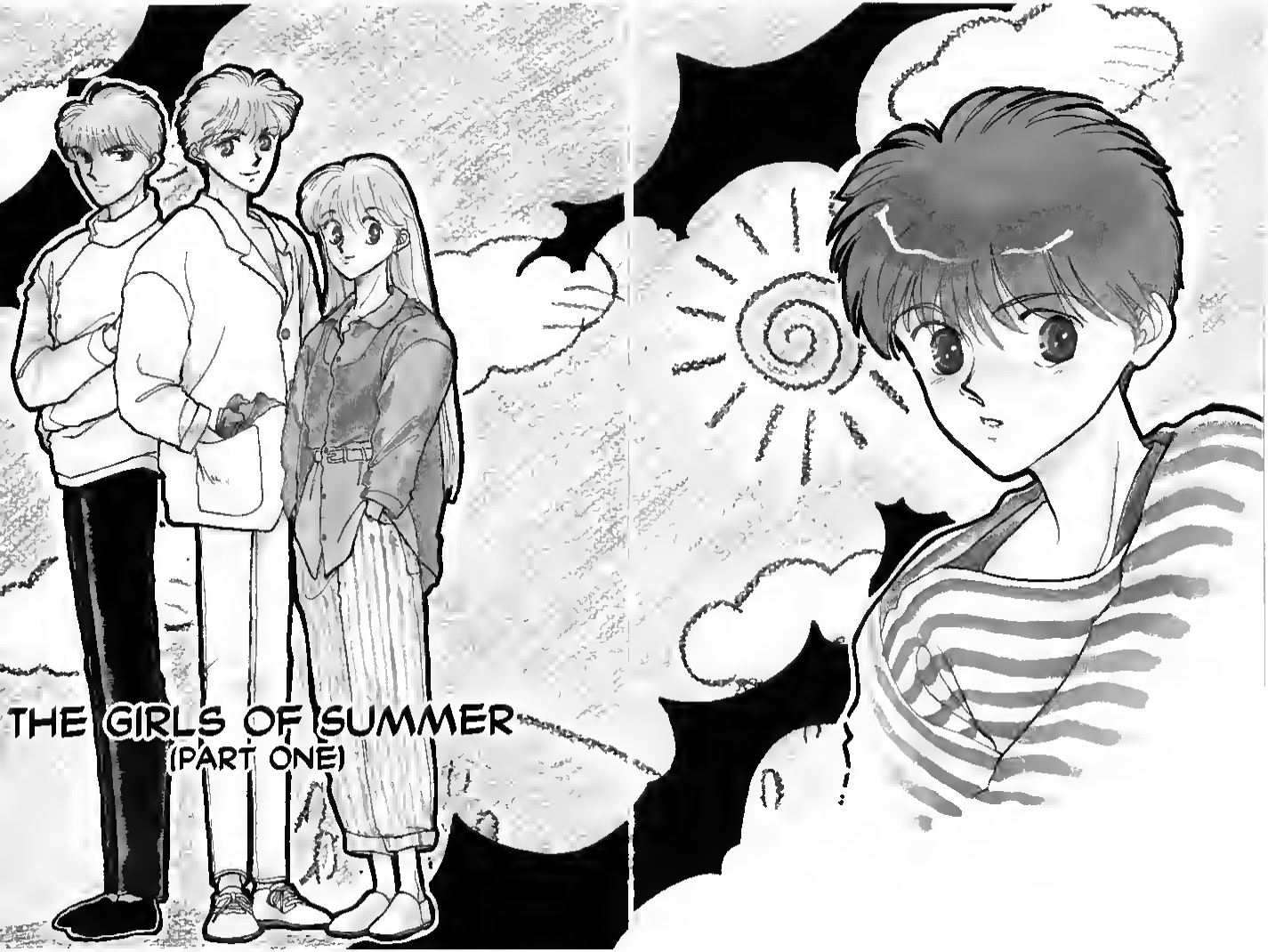

AND THAT WAS THE END OF DEMON-KING CLORETS.
DWUMMBLE
YOU CAN HANDLE IT FROM HERE, RIGHT?
MAKE SURE THE KING GETS THIS— IT'S WHERE TO SEND
...MY SHARE OF THE REWARD.
BUT WE'RE ALMOST THERE .. CAN'T WE GO BACK TOGETHER?

THE GIRLS OF SUMMER
(PART ONE)

AND THEN THE WARRIOR DEPARTED, GOING ON HIS WANDERING WARRIOR WAY.
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE
YOU MAY AS WELL MARRY PRINCESS CHELSEA.
HOLDING DEARLY TO THE PRINCE, THE YOUTH RETURNED TO THE CASTLE, AND THE KING REJOICED.
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
Good eggs that one
SO HERB'S TAKEN OFF, HUH?
MORE FOR SOME THAN OTHERS.
AND SO, AFTER WEDDING THE PRINCESS CHELSEA, THE YOUTH BECAME A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND LIVED IN THE CASTLE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
IT WAS A HAPPY ENDING FOR ALL.
The Happy End

HERE IS DEVILWOOD: THE END

DII
HYOHH...
SUMMER BREAK
...THIS MUST BE THAT LAST ROAD, AND..
AH
SNIFF
WELL... UM. LET'S SEE...
THIS IS THE BUS ROUTE, SO..
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND THE HOTEL IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT SHUN'S FAMILY OWNS.
THIS HILL! HERE!
I'M SURE OF IT.
HRY TOO
HWOBBL


THE GIRLS OF SUMMER
(PART ONE)

IT ALL STARTED THE DAY BEFORE SUMMER BREAK.
NUH-UHH
THIS TIME FOR SURE.
YOU WON'T TELL US IT'S "GONE" OFF THE MAP AGAIN, WILL YOU?
AND YOU'RE SURE, SHUN, THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT ROAD?
WHAT IF I WERE TO SAY THERE'S A HOTEL WHERE WE CAN ALL STAY FOR FREE?!
GUYS-GUYS-GUYS!
FREE
CHECK THIS.
FREE-FREE?

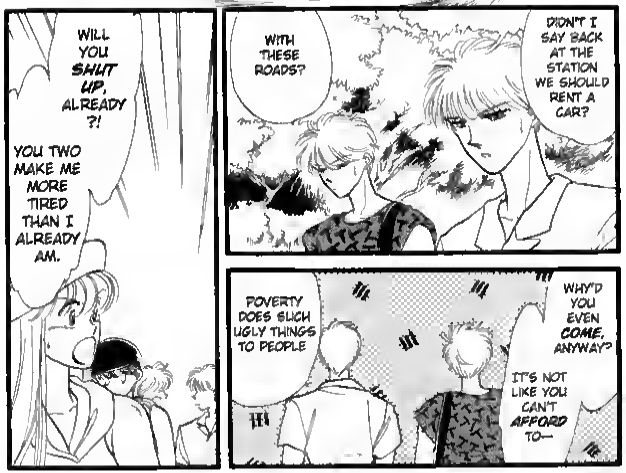
Yaay, back to business as usual.

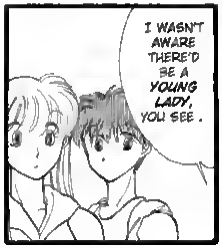
SO THIS TIME YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO GIVE HER UP
ARE WE RIGHT, OR ARE WE WRONG?!
WRONG!
We won't talk you out of it
THAT IS A HAPPY THING
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
GIVEN UP ON THE "GIVING UP" WITH YOUR BROTHER'S WIFE
LOUNGING AROUND HER OWN HOME, SHE MIGHT
IT'S SUMMER NOW, YOU KNOW
DYEH-HEH
Get up or I'll put you away with the furniture!
You going to sleep all day?
Yakkun!
GROVE GROVE
SHE IS! BET YOU ANYTHING I'M SURE OF IT
BE DRESSED LIKE THIS!
BY GEORGE, HE'S SERIOUS!
PSST PSST PSST
AWW, LEAVE ME ALONE!
AND, BEING THAT IT IS VACATION, IF YOU WERE TO OVERSLEEP, SHE'D COME AND WAKE YOU . PERSONALLY.
SHOT TO THE HEART

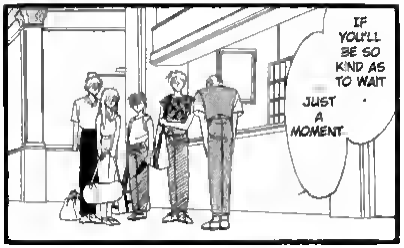
THE HOTEL MY FAMILY BOUGHT IS BEING RENOVATED. THE LETTER SAYS THAT, SINCE IT WON'T REOPEN TILL NEXT YEAR, I SHOULD BRING SOME FRIENDS AND HANG OUT!
COMPANY USE ONLY
Directions to the Nowa Lake Hotel
IT'S A LETTER FROM HOME.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
WE COULD.
AND THERE'S A LAKE THERE, RIGHT? WE COULD GO SWIMMING!
ACTUALLY, I...
HUH?
YOU'RE COMING, TOO, RIGHT, HASUKAWA?
THEN LET'S GO! WOO-HOO!
AHAHAHAHA!
TOO BAD, HUH? GOSH DARN IT.
...I'VE BEEN THINKING I MIGHT GO HOME THIS BREAK.
* A TOTAL LIE!
GOOD FOR YOU, HASUKAWA. FINALLY, YOU'VE...
HE SEEMS HAPPY

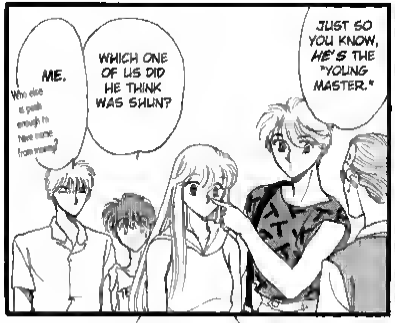
HERE, OVER HERE!
THERE IT IS!
ISAKAWA CORP COMPANY HOUSING
AH!
OUCH!
LEAST I'M NOT THE ONE WHO GOT US LOST,
<KOFF> SHUN <KOFF>

WAIT'LL I TELL EVERYONE
OOH, YOU NAUGHTY MONKEY, YOU!
SO, COME FALL, HASUKAWA MAY ACTUALLY BE LEAVING SCHOOL FOR HER.
YAAAARGH!
WE ARE. SHOULD BE JUST A BIT FURTHER ...
IT'S GETTING DARK.
WE THERE YET, SHUN?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN

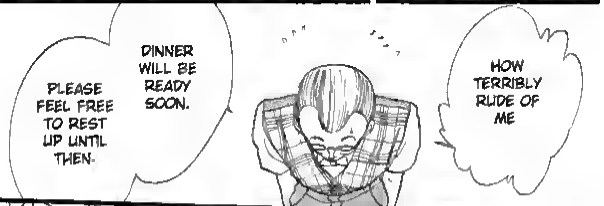

WILL YOU SHUT UP, ALREADY ?!
YOU TWO MAKE ME MORE TIRED THAN I ALREADY AM.
WITH THESE ROADS?
DIDN'T I SAY BACK AT THE STATION WE SHOULD RENT A CAR?
POVERTY DOES SUCH UGLY THINGS TO PEOPLE
WHY'D YOU EVEN COME, ANYWAY?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO—


I WASN'T AWARE THERE'D BE A YOUNG LADY, YOU SEE.

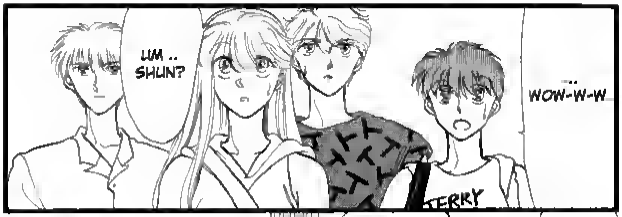

IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO WAIT JUST A MOMENT

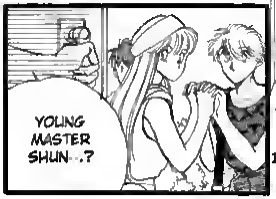

ME.
Who else is posh enough to have come from inside?
WHICH ONE OF US DID HE THINK WAS SHUN?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, HE'S THE "YOUNG MASTER."

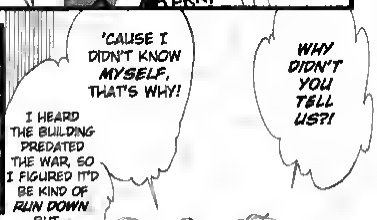
I'LL HAVE ANOTHER ROOM MADE UP, RIGHT AWAY.
SIR? SIR?
YES?

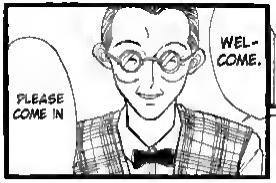

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REST UP UNTIL THEN.
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON.
HOW TERRIBLY RUDE OF ME

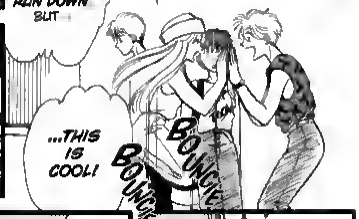
KREEK
NO WAY... NAH.
KREEK
NAH.
YOU DON'T THINK HE'S THE ONLY ONE LIVING HERE?

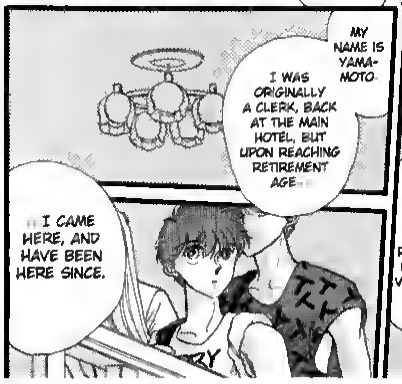

LIM .. SHUN?
... WOW-W-W


YOUNG MASTER SHUN...?


I HEARD THE BUILDING PREDATED THE WAR, SO I FIGURED IT'D BE KIND OF RUN DOWN BUT
'CAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF, THAT'S WHY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?!


PLEASE COME IN
WEL-COME.


...THIS IS COOL!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE


MY NAME IS YAMA-MOTO.
I WAS ORIGINALLY A CLERK, BACK AT THE MAIN HOTEL, BUT UPON REACHING RETIREMENT AGE
I CAME HERE, AND HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE.

I SEE YOU MUST ALL BE VERY TIRED.
THE WAY HERE IS RATHER INCON-VENIENT

LET'S! LET'S!
FORGET RESTING UP LET'S GO EXPLORE!
I GUESS IT WAS ORIGINALLY MEANT FOR FOREIGN GUESTS
FLOMP
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY GUESTS, HUH?
AND ONLY HOTEL STAFF GET TO SEE IT.
WOW, CHECK THE ELEVA-TOR!
?

WHOA
THE PLACE REALLY IS OLD.
IT'S LIKE IN THE MOVIES!
OOH. SEMPAI! SEMPAI!
IT'S REALLY "ANTIQUE-Y" IN HERE, HUH?

DINNER'S READY WHENEVER YOU'D LIKE WOULD YOU CARE TO DINE NOW?
IS IT? GOOD! I'M STARVING!
ITADAKIMASU
MM YUMMY!
It really is.

TOTALLY NORMAL "VACATION SCENE," RIGHT?
BUT THINGS WEREN'T NORMAL... WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT YET.

SOOT SPRITES ...
Tons of 'em...
IT'S, UH, KINDA DARK
UM... WHY IS THIS THE ONLY HALL WITHOUT LIGHTS?
THAT AREA IS OFF-LIMITS.
NOT A THING
WHY, IS SOMETHING THERE?
TERRY TOON
IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO AVOID IT...
TERRY TOON

SHIN-OBU
HOW MANY MINUTES FROM HERE TO YOUR HOUSE BY CAR?
THIRTY
WHY DO YOU ASK?
GUYS, GUYS! LET'S GO CHECK THAT ISLAND.
THERE'S BOAT RENTALS!
SHUN
CARE TO?
YAAY! ♡

AND EVEN IF WE HAD... WOULD IT HAVE MADE THE SCARY STUFF ANY LESS SCARY?
AH HA HA HA!
I GUESS MORE PEOPLE STAY CLOSER TO THE LAKE.
HA HA HA
WOO-HOO YEAHH!
HUH
I saw a snake too.
I HEAR THERE'S TANUKI IN THE WOODS
ZAAASH

SO WHY'D THAT GUY SAY THERE WAS "NOT A THING"?
OH, YOU MEAN ..? YEAH, HUH?
SO MAYBE THAT'S WHERE IT LEADS ...
.....
.....
.....
WHAAAAT?!
B-BUT HE SAID IT WAS OFF-LIMITS!
WHICH MAKES ME WANT TO GO ALL THE MORE.
YEAH, WE'RE PLAYING "EXPLORER"!
AH!
LOOK, LOOK! OVER THERE!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE TWO GUYS, DOES IT?
UH-HUH
DEEPER IN THE MOUNTAINS THAN I THOUGHT
WOW!
EVEN FROM ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!
OUR FAMILY'S HOTEL!
IT KINDA SPREADS OUT, HUH?
YEAH, I DIDN'T .. THINK IT WAS SO BIG.
HUH?
WAIT ...
LOOKS LIKE A CASTLE FROM HERE, DOESN'T IT?

GULP
HEY STAIRS!
...?

YOU REALIZE IT'S PROBABLY JUST AN EMPLOYEE LOUNGE. OR...
LOOK.
WE KNOW IT'S NOT NOTHING. LET'S START WITH THAT.
IF IT WERE, WHY'D HE MAKE IT SO WE COULDN'T RESIST GOING?
I...
WHAT IF SOMETHING POPS OUT AT US?!
THAT'S EASY. THAT'S WHEN WE...
AH-AH-AH...!
SEE? FOOL-PROOF.
RIGHT.
WAAAAA——HHHHH!
I DON'T KNOW EITHER OF YOU.
You already did that joke.
"Scat sprites, come out and play-ay..."

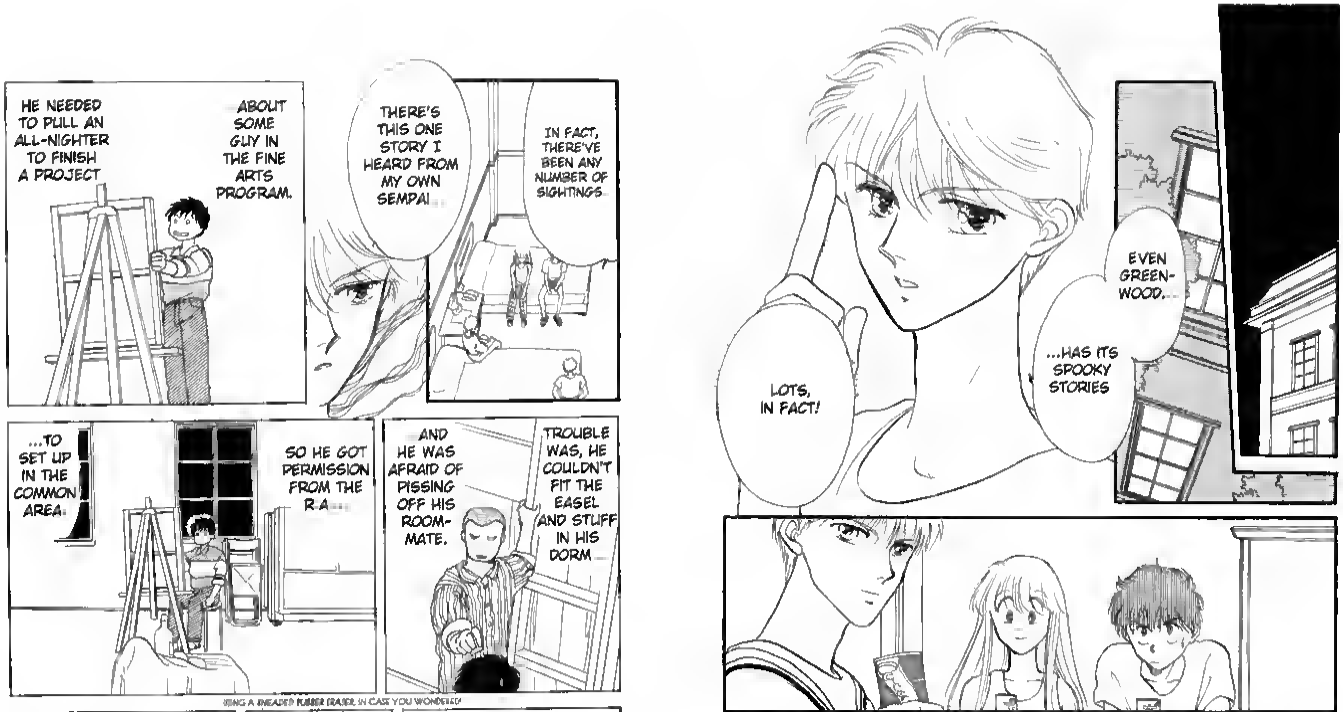
THEY'RE TOTALLY PARANOID AROUND HERE.
NO WONDER WE SCARED YOU.
BWAH HA HA
"NOT A THING," HE SAID?! GOOD ONE!!
WAH HA HA HAH!
"GIRL Ⓓ."
CALL ME "GIRL Ⓐ."
"Ⓑ" HERE.
"Ⓒ."
D-DID I JUST MISS .?
YEAH, WE DON'T BITE — MUCH
BIBI
UH-HUH. ME AND HIM ARE SECOND-YEARS...
HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS?
WE'RE ALL FROM TOKYO...

WHOOO— AAARE— YOUUU—?
ARE YOU ALL OKAY?!
UH-OH.
WERE YOU SCARED?
THOUGHT WE WERE GHOSTS, HUH?
WHY'RE YOU GUYS HERE?

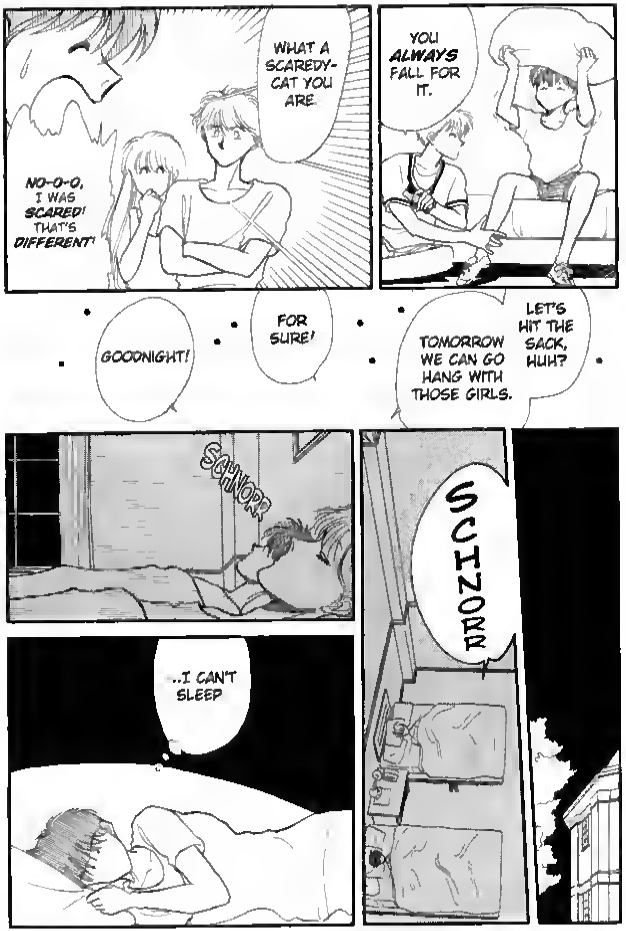
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE HERE A WHILE LONGER
WE'RE CAUGHT BE-TWEEN, YOU MIGHT SAY
BUT HOW NICE TO MEET YOU. ♡
SURE IS! ♡
I'LL SAY!
SO THAT OLD MAN
...DIDN'T THINK HE COULD TRUST US NOT TO BOTHER THE GIRLS.
I'm insulted. Are you insulted?
JERK.
DO I LOOK THE TYPE? I MEAN, REALLY.
YOU ARE YOUR OWN FAVORITE TOPIC, AREN'T YOU
STILL...
I DIDN'T THINK THE GIRLS' SCHOOLS WERE ON BREAK NOW
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU DO LOOK THE TYPE...
HEH HEH HEH... WATCH ME SMOKE THE LOT OF YOU
REAL GIRLS, I MEAN TO SAY
WHO CARES?
I KNOW I'M SICK OF MALE FACES. IT'LL BE NICE HAVING GIRLS AROUND
WHAT CUTIES, HUH?
HIGH-SCHOOL-ERS, THEY SAID?
I'M GONNA GO FOR IT! JUST YOU WATCH!
WAHAHA
HAHAHA!
I KNOW WHICH ONE I WANT MAMA FEELS LIKE JAPANESE TONIGHT!!
AW, YOU'RE NOT SO OLD
I WAS YOUNG ONCE— I THINK

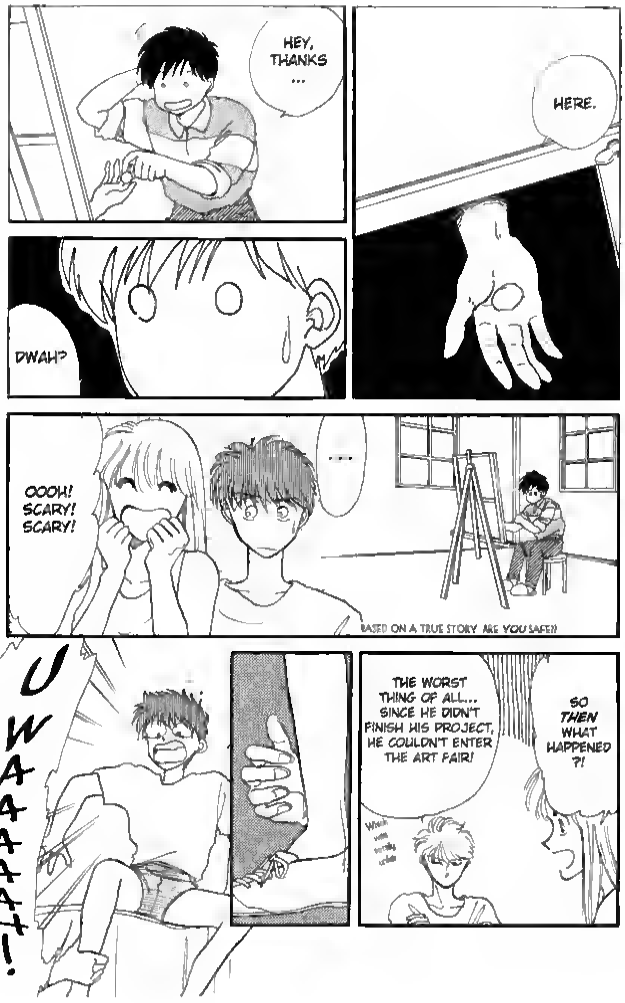
THE GIRLS OF SUMMER
(PART TWO)

YOU GUYS HAVE ME USED TO GIRLS IT'S ONLY FITTING
I'LL HAVE THE LONG-HAIRED ONE, THEN.
FOO
I ALWAYS HAVE HAD A SWEET TOOTH
I'M THINKING THE YOUNGER ONE
I WANT SWIMSUIT POSTERBOY, WHAT A DREAMBOAT!
ME NEXT!
I WISH WE ALL COULD JUST MOVE ON
Yawn
BUT THOSE BOYS SHOULD BE FUN, HUH?
WE SURE PICKED A STUPID PLACE TO HAUNT, HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW BORING THINGS WERE TILL NOW
WHAT'S SUMMER IN JAPAN WITHOUT A GHOST STORY!
GUYS IN ONE PART OF THE HOTEL, AND GHOULS IN ANOTHER.. WHO'DVE THUNK IT?
NYEHHEHHEHHEHHEH...
If they don't SCREAM too much, that is!


LOTS, IN FACT!
...HAS ITS SPOOKY STORIES
EVEN GREEN-WOOD...
MIRRORS FROM NOWHERE AND OTHER "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" STUFF, EVEN IF NO ONE TALKS ABOUT IT...
TEE HEE HEE!
AHA HA HA!
GHOST KIDS, PLAYING IN THE HALLS AT NIGHT
KREEE
SELF-OPENING DOORS

HE NEEDED TO PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER TO FINISH A PROJECT
...ABOUT SOME GUY IN THE FINE ARTS PROGRAM.
THERE'S THIS ONE STORY I HEARD FROM MY OWN SEMPAI...
IN FACT, THERE'VE BEEN ANY NUMBER OF SIGHTINGS...
...TO SET UP IN THE COMMON AREA.
SO HE GOT PERMISSION FROM THE R.A...
...AND HE WAS AFRAID OF PISSING OFF HIS ROOM-MATE.
TROUBLE WAS, HE COULDN'T FIT THE EASEL AND STUFF IN HIS DORM...
USING A SHEATED RUBBER BLADE, IN CASE YOU WONDERED!
SHOOT.
SCRAPE SCRAPE
WHOA, WHOA!
PLOP
MAN, I'M TIRED
LATE THAT NIGHT, JUST BEFORE DAWN...
JUST THEN
Who's there? Don't be like that, talk to me!


WHAT A SCAREDY-CAT YOU ARE.
NO-O-O, I WAS SCARED! THAT'S DIFFERENT!
YOU ALWAYS FALL FOR IT.
LET'S HIT THE SACK, HUH?
TOMORROW WE CAN GO HANG WITH THOSE GIRLS.
FOR SURE!
GOODNIGHT!
SCHNORR
SCHNORR
..I CAN'T SLEEP


HEY, THANKS ...
HERE.
DWAH?
OOOH! SCARY! SCARY!
...
BASED ON A TRUE STORY. ARE YOU SAFE?!
UWAAAAAH!
THE WORST THING OF ALL... SINCE HE DIDN'T FINISH HIS PROJECT, HE COULDN'T ENTER THE ART FAIR!
SO THEN WHAT HAPPENED ?!

PWAFF
MUST BE HEARING THINGS
TAP...
TAP...
THIS IS THE 2ND FLOOR
NO WAY.
!
TAP TAP
COME
COME
THAT'S
"GIRL Ⓔ," ISN'T IT?

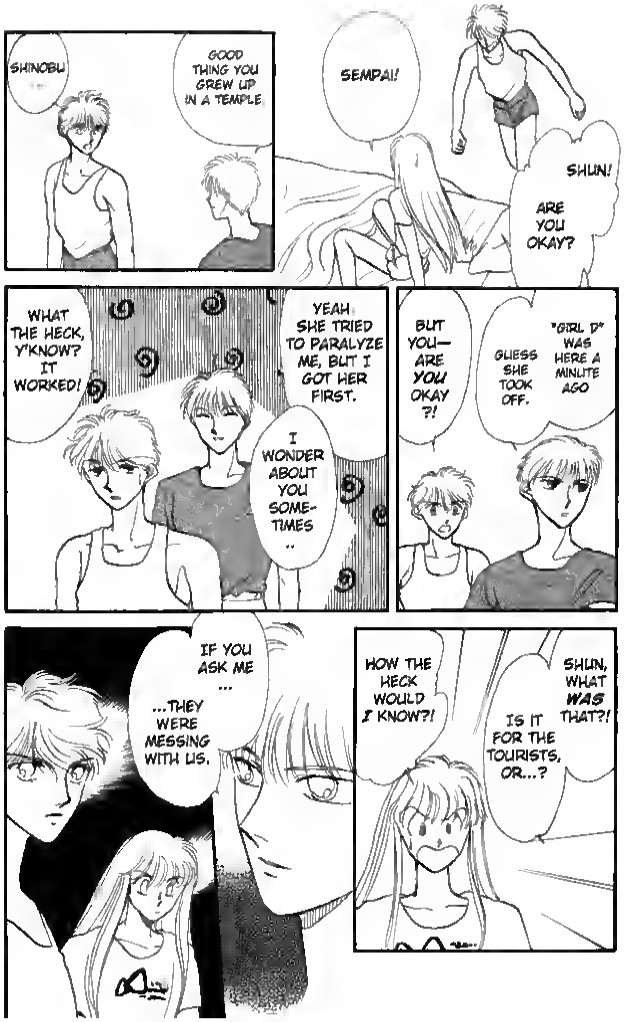
WHY CAN'T I BE FRIENDS WITH NORMAL PEOPLE?
Nothing ever seems to get to them.
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT THESE GUYS...
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
...AND IT'S ALL SO OLD.
THE CEILINGS ARE SO HIGH..
...AND ALL THE TREES DON'T HELP.
THIS PLACE REALLY IS EXTRA SPOOKY AT NIGHT...
Now Ruby shows up.
HROLL
TAP TAP...
WHAT IF A GHOST SHOWS UP, AND IT'S A GAIJIN?

THE HELL ...?
MMMN
COME
IT'S OVER THIS WAY
COME
OKAY
CAN'T MOVE, HUH?
IT'S ME, "GIRL A"!
HIYA!
A WEIGHT, ON MY CHEST
...?
THAT WOULD BE BECAUSE I'VE PARALYZED YOU.

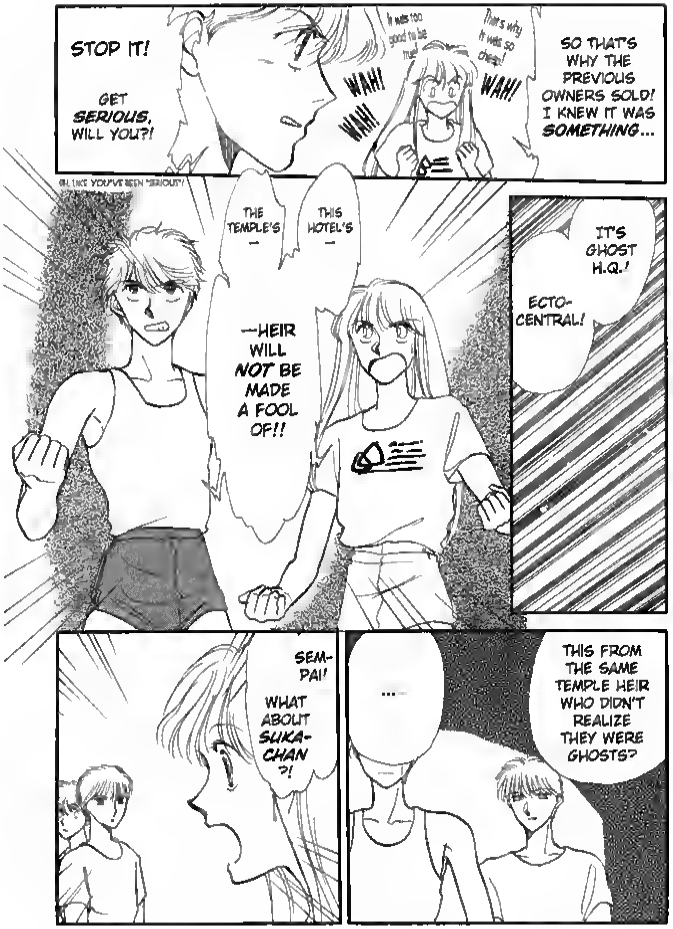
SCHNORR
...
SENPAI
SEMP—
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?
?
CHAK
GUESS I CAN GO CHECK MYSELF.
I'VE LOST SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT...
WILL YOU COME HELP ME FIND IT?
UH...
SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT OF BED.

...N-NG...
NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPE-..
SHUN!
SHINOBU!

FWUMP
HROLL
LOOK, I AM A GHOST, OKAY? BUT DON'T BE SCARED.
WE CAN STILL ..
NO FAIR!
YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE PARALYZED!
YAAAAAH!
NAM AMIDA BUTSU
CHANT CHANT CHANT
SPECIAL MOVE!
...YOU EAT TEMPLE-BLESSED RICE?
FWIPP
COOKED IN BUDDHA'S RICE-POT, NO LESS.
YOU! YOU'RE A...
...CARE-TAKER'S KID, AREN'T YOU?


SHINOBU
GOOD THING YOU GREW UP IN A TEMPLE
SEMPAI!
SHUN!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT THE HECK, Y'KNOW? IT WORKED!
YEAH SHE TRIED TO PARALYZE ME, BUT I GOT HER FIRST.
I WONDER ABOUT YOU SOME-TIMES ..
BUT YOU— ARE YOU OKAY ?!
GUESS SHE TOOK OFF.
"GIRL I" WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO
IF YOU ASK ME ...
...THEY WERE MESSING WITH US.
HOW THE HECK WOULD I KNOW?!
IS IT FOR THE TOURISTS, OR...?
SHUN, WHAT WAS THAT?!

HEY
HOW'D YOU GET AWAY?
AHAHAHAHAHA
OHOHOHOHO
MWAH
AHHHH!

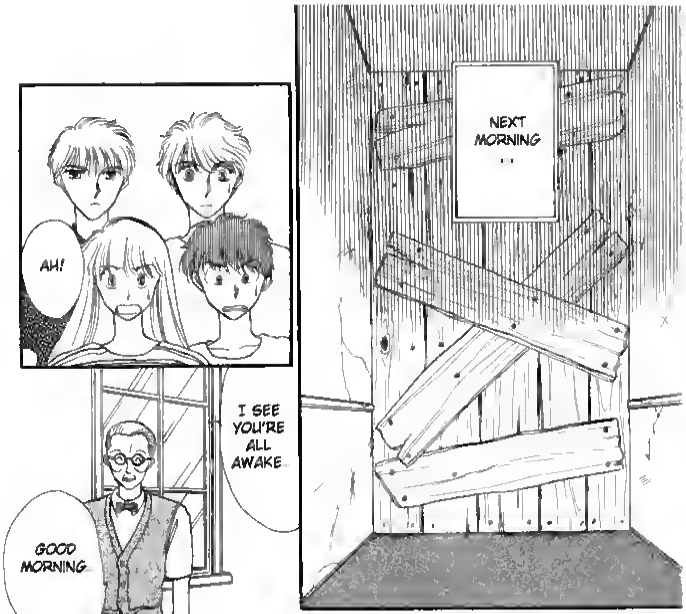

STOP IT!
GET SERIOUS, WILL YOU?!
WAH!
WAH!
It was too good to be true!
That's why it was so cheap!
WAH!
SO THAT'S WHY THE PREVIOUS OWNERS SOLD! I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING...
@$! LIKE YOU'VE BEEN "SERIOUS"!
THE TEMPLE'S —
THIS HOTEL'S —
—HEIR WILL NOT BE MADE A FOOL OF!!
IT'S GHOST H.Q.!
ECTO-CENTRAL!
SEM-PAI!
WHAT ABOUT SUKA-CHAN?!
...
THIS FROM THE SAME TEMPLE HEIR WHO DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE GHOSTS?

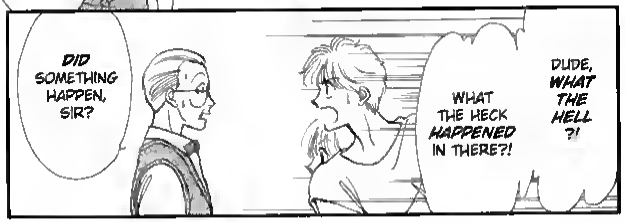
SORRY TO BRING YOU SO FAR OUT HERE.
'SOKAY.
JUST A BIT FURTHER.
SO, UM, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ...?
I SHOULD'VE TOLD SOMEONE I WAS GOING ..
OH.
BUT I DON'T —
DO THEY WORRY LIKE MINE DID?
YOU CAN GO OFF ON TRIPS, EVEN AS HIGH-SCHOOLERS
MY FOLKS WOULD NEVER'VE ALLOWED IT.
MUST BE NICE, BEING A BOY
HUH?

SPARK
UWAH!
?
HUH WHAT'S WRONG WITH—
CLIK CL
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?
EIGHT YEARS, AND THEN...
...THEY FORGET YOU?
"GIRL Ⓔ"...?
HELLO ?
UM...
"GIRL Ⓔ"!
"GIRL Ⓔ"!

SAY...
...I SEE
I LIVE WITH MY BROTHER AND HIS WI...
MY PARENTS ARE BOTH GONE...
YOUR PARENTS?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM?
IT'S OKAY.
Does she think I'm a little kid or what?
IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS NOW
YEAH, RIGHT!

UWAH!
SWISH
PUSH PUSH PUSH
L-LET ..
LET ME GO!
HOW CAN I BE...
BUT THAT'S CRAZY!
I-I'M SINKING!
LET ME
KRACK!
WAAA


NEXT MORNING...
AH!
I SEE YOU'RE ALL AWAKE.
GOOD MORNING.

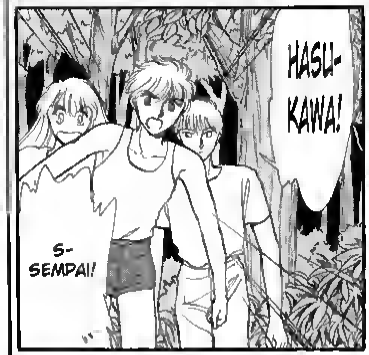

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, SIR?
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED IN THERE?!
DUDE, WHAT THE HELL?!

BUT DURING THE PREVIOUS MANAGER'S TIME...
...THERE WERE GUEST ROOMS THERE, YES.

HH...
...WHAT?

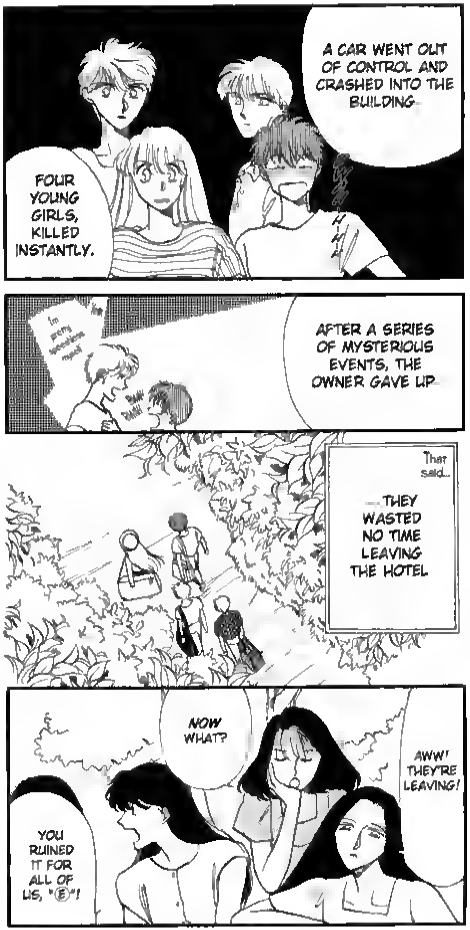
FFT

DON'T PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR ME, YOUNG LADY!
HMPH!

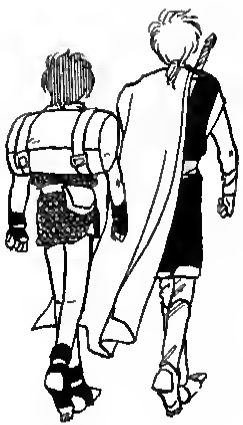

HASU-KAWA!
S-SEMPAI!

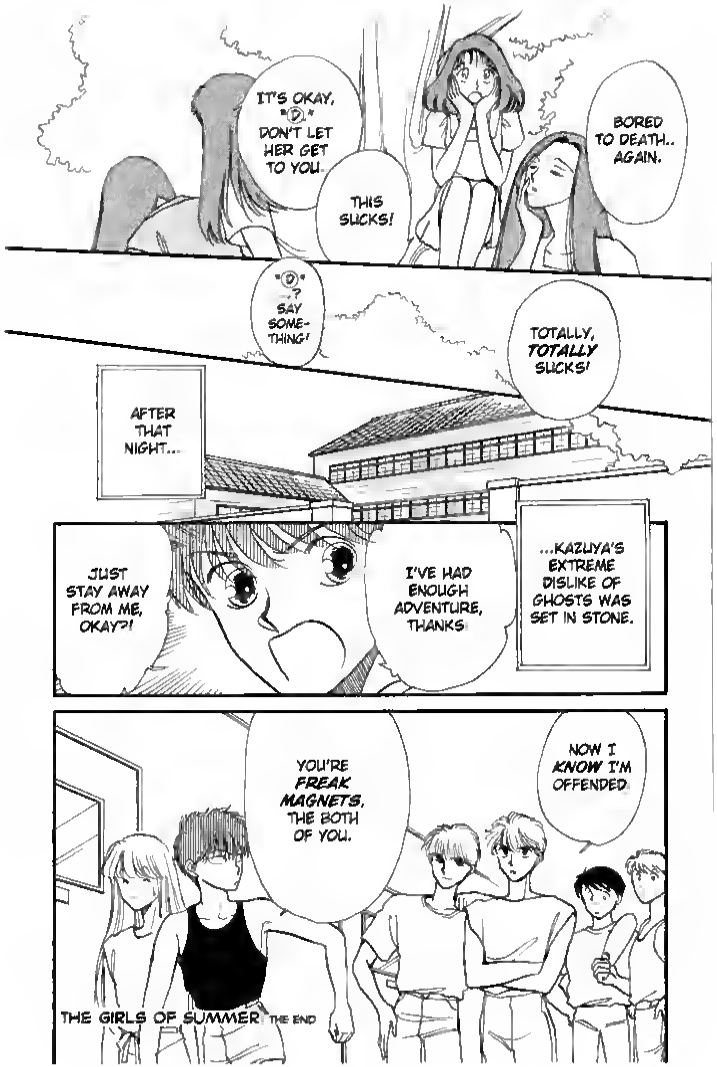
THE NERVE

HMPH!


A CAR WENT OUT OF CONTROL AND CRASHED INTO THE BUILDING.
FOUR YOUNG GIRLS, KILLED INSTANTLY.
AFTER A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS EVENTS, THE OWNER GAVE UP
That said...
...THEY WASTED NO TIME LEAVING THE HOTEL
NOW WHAT?
AWW! THEY'RE LEAVING!
YOU RUINED IT FOR ALL OF US, "Ⓔ"!

ALL SEEMS UNDAMAGED FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT IT'S GUTTED WITHIN.
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS OFF-LIMITS
...A FIRE BROKE OUT.
FORTUNATELY, NO, THEY DID NOT.
DID ANYONE DIE?
OH! YOU DON'T MEAN THE ALTO ACCIDENT?
SIR, I ASSURE YOU—
BUT..., THEY HAVE TO'VE! WHAT ABOUT THE FOUR DEAD GIRLS?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS RIGHT AFTER THE FIRE...
YOU CAN'T SEE THE ROAD FOR THE TREES...
ABOVE THE HOTEL, THERE IS A ROAD




BORED TO DEATH.. AGAIN.
IT'S OKAY, "D." DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU.
THIS SUCKS!
"D"...? SAY SOME-THING!
TOTALLY, TOTALLY SUCKS!
AFTER THAT NIGHT...
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME, OKAY?!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH ADVENTURE, THANKS.
...KAZUYA'S EXTREME DISLIKE OF GHOSTS WAS SET IN STONE.
YOU'RE FREAK MAGNETS, THE BOTH OF YOU.
NOW I KNOW I'M OFFENDED.
THE GIRLS OF SUMMER
THE END

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

More manga!
More manga!

If you enjoyed this volume of

Here is Greenwood

then here's some more manga you might be interested in

HANA-YORI DANGO © 1992 by YOKO KAMIO/SHUEISHA Inc.

Boys over Flowers (Hana-Yori Dango)
At elite Eitoku Academy the "F4" — the four richest, cutest, most popular boys in school — run everything and crush all rivals under their Gucci heels. Enter Makina Tsukushi: an ordinary girl on a scholarship who surprises even herself by standing up to the undisputed kings of Eitoku. When the F4 order the entire school to destroy Makino, she declares war — and an epic battle begins. But once the boys of the F4 discover that Makino is no pushover, they start to like her — and fall in love with her.

Hanazakari no Kimitachi he © Hisaya Nakajo 1996/HAKUSENSHA Inc.

Hana-Kimi: For You in Full Blossom
Japanese-American teenager Mizuki is thrilled to be moving to Japan to attend a prestigious all-boys high school. There's just one problem: she's a girl. By disguising herself as a boy, she's able to pursue her dreams in track and field and get close to her idol, star high jumper Izumi Sano. Soon Mizuki is one of the school's top athletes, and her classmates are learning how to deal with the very pretty new "boy." But keeping her secret hidden on and off the field isn't going to be easy — not when Izumi is her roommate!

©2006 Yuu Watase/Shogakukan, Inc.

Imadoki! Nowadays
Tanpopo's name means "weed," and she certainly feels like a dandelion amongst the upper-class roses at her posher than-posh new high school. But this working girl can't thrive on a campus where even the plant life is artificial. At the risk of shining up her aristocratic classmates' allergies, Tanpopo starts a Gardening Club and begins a campaign to bring real flowers — and real friendships — to her school. A new series from Yuu Watase, creator of *Fushigi Yuugi*, *Ceres: Celestial Legend*, and *Alice 19th*.

Translation Notes

Page 16 panel 4: This student is engaged in a common Japanese relaxation technique: repeatedly drawing the kanji character for "person" on one's palm, then "swallowing" it with a deep breath. Mitsuru, meanwhile, is chanting Buddhist temple prayers.

Page 22 panel 6: The sound effect here, written in Japanese as *kapon*, is the sound of a bamboo ladle striking the water. It's a sound associated with public bathhouses, and you can often hear it in anime scenes set in public baths or hot springs.

Page 23 panel 5: "The nail that sticks up gets hammered down" is a well-known Japanese proverb. The lesson is the opposite of the comparable English proverb "The squeaky wheel gets the grease," which may say something about the social attitudes of the two cultures.

Page 25 panel 3: The upperclassmen's sneaky exchange is standard evil-overlord/crooked-merchant dialogue in countless Japanese historical dramas.

Page 26 panel 1: The "Big Challenge Award" is an annual contest for young manga artists sponsored by the girls' manga magazine *Hana to Yume* (Flowers and Dreams) which published *Here is Greenwood*. Many manga magazines sponsor similar contests to find new talent, offering a cash prize and the possibility of a publishing deal.

Page 27 *Koikoi* and *Kabu* are both games played with a deck of Japanese *hanafuda* cards. *Chuchiromo* is a dice game. *Bobon* and *Bathanmon* are card games. The *sampan* think they can win back their losses with *Chi-ha*, "the game of ideograms," a Chinese gambling game introduced to Japan during the Meiji period.

Page 89 panel 3: As role-playing gamers the world over know, "HP" stands for "hit points" and "EXP" for "experience points."

Page 106 panel 5: *Ichi-ri* means "one *ri*," a *ri* being an old unit of distance equal to just under four kilometers, or about two and a half miles.

Page 139: The thugs' beaks and hollow-basin heads identify them as kappa, a type of water-dwelling monster. Kappa love the taste of human flesh and, for some reason, cucumbers. At sushi restaurants, cucumber rolls are called *kappa maki*, "kappa rolls."

Page 161 panel 1: In Buddhist lore, the *udumbara* (*udonge* in Japanese) is a flower said to bloom once every thousand years. The cowry shell or *kiyasugai* is a fertility symbol in many cultures, including Japan.

Page 190 panel 2: The boys are, of course, recalling the soot sprites that inhabit dark old rooms in Hayao Miyazaki's classic anime *My Neighbor Totoro*. In the original Japanese, they say "*Makkurokurosuke*," the Japanese word for the sprites.

Page 192 panel 5: Tanuki are wild animals native to Japan; they resemble raccoons but are actually related to dogs. Urban boys like the *Greenwood* characters are probably more familiar with the jolly ceramic tanuki statues that guard the doorways of sake shops. In Japanese folklore, tanuki are magical tricksters, so a tanuki sighting here may be intended as a foreshadowing of supernatural mischief to come.

Page 202 panel 5: In Japan, summer is the season when ghosts are believed to come out to haunt. Summer nights are traditionally the best time for telling ghost stories, and a series like *Greenwood* would hardly be complete without a scary summertime tale.

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Here is Greenwood™

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